





## Mubarak launches religious drive against militants

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has launched a religious offensive against Muslim militants fighting to overthrow him, making a sudden pilgrimage to Mecca and appealing for his own vision of a tolerant Islam.

Saudi radio said Mr. Mubarak arrived in Mecca, where the Prophet Muhammad proclaimed Islam 1,400 years ago, Friday night and went on Saturday morning to the Grand Mosque.

It added that Mr. Mubarak met King Fahd, a close political ally, but said nothing of what they discussed.

The president's spiritual campaign follows a new ruthlessness in police action against militants which has made March the bloodiest month in a year of rising political violence in Egypt.

At least 42 people have been killed and 83 injured in assaults by police and intelligence services on a mosque packed with militants in the southern resort of Aswan and on slum apartments used by militants in Cairo and Assiut.

Mr. Mubarak used the last Friday in the holy month of Ramadan to demonstrate his own Islamic credentials and appeal for a return to human values which he said would defeat extremism.

He prayed in the 1,000-year-old Azhar Mosque, listened to winners of a Koran-reciting competition and gave prizes to preachers and scholars from across the Muslim world including Afghan Mujahideen leader Sibghatullah Mojaddidi.

"If we followed the principle of the sanctity of humankind, this heart-rending, unjust aggression against the life, land and property of others would not happen and people would not commit these crimes of murder and robbery

which innocent Muslims suffer at the hands of others, pretended Muslims," he said in a speech after the prize-giving.

"If we followed the principle of venerating freedom, every belief and thought would respect the other and it would be known that there is no compulsion in religion because belief only happens by conviction, it cannot be brought about by force. Faith is not fixed in the heart by the edge of a sword."

Police renewed their raids Saturday in Assiut, a university town 325 kilometres south of Cairo which was one of the birthplaces of the militant movement Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) in the 1970s and the scene of an uprising in 1981 after President Anwar Sadat was assassinated.

Security sources said police shot dead one suspected militant, a 21-year-old student who opened fire when officers came to arrest him, and detained 50 other people for questioning.

Mr. Mubarak said failure to observe the values of Islam had led to famine and war, apparently referring to the misery caused by civil war in Sudan and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

"If we followed the principle of brotherly ties, we would not find division and the ugly failure in economic conditions and in social levels between parts of our nation, which has reached the point in some countries that thousands of their people have died of starvation, dry skins on sapless bones," he said.

"If we followed the principle of just peace, some of the sons of our nation would not have become involved in illegitimate, aggressive, expansionist or vengeful wars," he said.



Algerian schoolchildren pass an armoured personnel carrier stationed in Algiers as part of an increased security presence in the Algerian capital in the wake of a new spate of militant violence targeting senior officials and politicians (AFP photo)

## Khartoum joins rebel-announced truce

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan postponed a planned military offensive and declared a ceasefire in the war torn south in response to a unilateral truce proclaimed by southern rebels.

The armed forces general command announced the positive response to the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) initiative in a televised statement. It said the ceasefire was aimed at creating an atmosphere conducive to success in peace talks expected soon.

The statement said the ceasefire took effect immediately despite preparations under way for a summer offensive. Last year, the army retook control of a large number of rebel-held towns during a spring and summer drive.

Success in that offensive was due mainly to the weakened position of the SPLA because it had lost its support base in Ethiopia

and was torn by internal splits. Two splinter groups remain outside the overall rebel command headed by army turncoat Colonel Johan Garang, who announced the rebel ceasefire. The government announcement apparently stops operations against all three groups, but that was not specified.

The statement warned the SPLA against trying to take military advantage of the truce "as it has done in previous ceasefires." It also said the ceasefire would not affect army administrative and logistical activities or the transportation of relief goods.

Any attempt to endanger these movements or to exploit this degression for military preparations across the border or for achieving military advantage would be regarded as a violation of the ceasefire," the statement said.

Such moves "would be dealt

with decisively," it said, partly to protect "the efforts for peace which began to show up in many areas of south Sudan."

Fighting has brought famine to wide areas of southern Sudan. At least 500,000 people have died, and hundreds of thousands more remain at risk. Relief operations are hampered by the war.

Col. Garang set no time limit in announcing the ceasefire a week ago.

Neither did the government announce a time limit. But it claimed the rebel agreement was valid only until the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan which should end Wednesday.

The SPLA, manned mostly by ethnic African Christians and animists, took up arms in 1983 against the Arab-descended, Muslim-dominated government, demanding economic administrative reforms.

## Algerian official dies of wounds

ALGIERS (AP) — A high-ranking government official has died of head wounds suffered in an attack blamed on Muslim gunmen, authorities said Friday, the third victim in a wave of assassinations this week of government figures.

There have been no arrests and no claim of responsibility, but police blame the attacks on armed Islamic extremists believed behind continued attacks on police and soldiers.

Hafid Senhadri, a member of the military-installed government's top advisory body and chief of staff to the Ministry of Vocational Training, never emerged from a coma after being shot Sunday by gunmen hiding in a stairwell at his home.

Mr. Senhadri died late Thursday at the 'Ain Nadjia military hospital near Algiers, the authorities reported, cited by state radio and the official APS news agency.

Mr. Senhadri was the first of four prominent Algerians targeted in a wave of assassinations this week.

Laadi Flici, a prominent doctor, and Djalil Liades, a former education minister, were shot and killed in separate attacks. Tahar Hamdi, minister for work and

social affairs, was slightly wounded in a different assassination attempt.

Police officers bearing machineguns guarded Mr. Flici's funeral, blocking roads two kilometres from the cemetery, where several members of the ruling High State Council attended the ceremony.

Authorities say Muslim extremists have killed more than 300 policemen and soldiers over the past year in an underground war that has claimed more than 600 lives.

The gunmen are widely believed to be carrying out the orders of Ali Belhadj, an imprisoned leader of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), to carry out a holy war against the regime.

Police reported Friday that an Islamic leader and two police officers were killed in the Algiers region Tuesday on Wednesday.

The Muslim militant, identified as Abdel Haq Layada, deputy leader of a large armed Islamic group, was said to have killed one police officer in an ambush and the other in a shootout a day later that claimed his life.

Mr. Senhadri and Mr. Flici both sat on the 60-member con-

sultative committee, an advisory body created by the military-backed ruling council last year to broaden public participation in government.

The ruling High State Council was installed by the army in January 1992 in a coup that deposed the FIS a certain victory in parliamentary elections.

The party has since been banned and its leaders jailed or fled. Despite ever harsher security measures, the national police and army have failed to quell daily attacks by fundamentalist gunmen.

The latest wave of attacks has shifted from policemen and soldiers to prominent figures linked to the government, especially anti-fundamentalist intellectuals.

Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar, the regime's strongman, escaped an apparent assassination attempt in February when a car bomb exploded near his motorcade.

Mohammad Boudiaf, a hero of Algeria's war for independence from France and the High State Council's first president, was shot and killed by a bodyguard last summer. The soldier was reported to have ties to FIS leaders.

## Moroccan elections postponed

RABAT (AP) — Elections for a new parliament, repeatedly delayed since 1990, have been put off for another two months, government sources said Friday.

Balloting set for April 30 has been rescheduled for June 25, according to the sources, who would not be further identified. They gave no other information other than to say a "consensus" was reached with the government.

Ostensibly, the government is postponing the voting because it needs time to finalise voter lists and print new ballots, the socialist-liberal opposition newspaper Liberation reported Friday.

Opposition parties, complaining of widespread government fraud in nationwide local elections in October, have pulled out of a commission set up to supervise the election.

They also scorn the government's claim of needing more time to prepare for the voting.

The parliamentary election was originally to have been held in 1990, but was repeatedly postponed in order to hold a referendum on the disputed Western Sahara, a huge ex-Spanish territory claimed by Morocco.

That referendum, to determine the wishes of its residents towards independence, still has not been held, but the government now says delays are unrelated to that issue.

Recent schedules had a new parliament to have been elected in December, then in April. Opposition groups in fact had criticised the choice of April 30 as it would interfere with labour groups' preparations for May Day.

Electoral reforms have pushed the number of seats in parliament up from 306 to 327.

Postal workers strike

Hardline Moroccan trade unions said a 24-hour strike Friday in the posts and telecommunications office (ONPT) was an almost total success.

They estimated that between 82 per cent and 98 per cent of the 20,000 employees obeyed the strike call.

However, residents said there was no major disruption of mail deliveries and most post offices were open for business as usual. Telephone engineers were also on the job.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### American University of Beirut gets new chief

BEIRUT (R) — The American University of Beirut elected Robert Haddad as its president Friday. He is the first Arab-American to hold the post. Dr. Haddad, a professor of Middle Eastern history and religion at Smith College in Massachusetts, succeeds Frederic Herter, the university said in a statement. His election for a six-year term was made by the board of trustees in New York effective July 1. Until a ban on U.S. citizens travelling to Lebanon is lifted, American administrators work out of the university's New York offices. The university was founded in 1866.

### Bomb blasts hit PLO officers' cars

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Bomb blasts hit the cars of two Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officers in South Lebanon Friday, destroying the vehicles but causing no casualties, security sources said. They said the first bomb wrecked the car of Ibrahim Al Hajji, a lieutenant of the PLO's mainstream Fatah group, in the southern port city of Tyre. The second bomb destroyed the car of Ismail Abu Al A'ain in Jal Al Bahar Palestinian refugee camp near Tyre. The sources said the blasts were linked to a power struggle between Fatah and the Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by guerrilla leader Abu Nidal. Seven Palestinian guerrillas have been killed this year in the inter-Palestinian feud. More than 25 were killed in 1992.

### Islamic group's arms found in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — U.S. soldiers in Somalia have found a large arms cache hidden under bags of rice at a compound belonging to the Muslim fundamentalist organisation Al Itihad, the U.S. military said Saturday. The soldiers searched the compound in the coastal town of Merca, 80 kilometres southwest of Mogadishu. Friday after hearing shots from inside, a military spokesman said. Al Itihad is a religious and political movement which receives most of its money from the Gulf. It also distributes relief food and provides medical services. The U.S. military spokesman said the arms cache contained 15 assault rifles, 20 submachineguns, seven larger machineguns, three mortars, 20 military radios and two small missiles. He said the compound had been under observation for some time but until they heard the shots the U.S. Army had no reason to search it.

### MPs ask Italy to recall Iran ambassador

ROME (R) — Italian opposition parliamentarians Friday asked Italy to recall its ambassador to Iran following the murder of an Iranian dissident in Rome this week. The 35 MPs of the Republican Party, in an appeal published in the party newspaper, said the government must take steps to dispel a belief that Italy was an "open zone" for acts of violence. They asked the Rome government to recall its ambassador to Tehran and to expel or place restrictions on Iranian representatives in Italy. The MPs said the measures were needed after Iranian dissident Mohammad Hussein Nagdi was shot down in a Rome street Tuesday. Mr. Nagdi, a former diplomat, was shot on his way to work by two gunmen riding on a scooter. Police have found the murder weapon, but no trace of the killers. The opposition Iranian National Resistance Council, which Mr. Nagdi represented in Rome for the past 11 years, has accused Tehran of being behind his murder and called on Italy to close down the Iranian embassy. The embassy has flatly denied any links to Mr. Nagdi's murder, blaming it on factional fighting within the Iranian opposition. Iran's official news agency IRNA also said Tuesday the killing was probably the result of factional disputes among dissidents.

### Bangladeshis observe Al Quds Day

DHAKA (AP) — About 1,000 Muslims burned American and Israeli flags after Friday prayers in a pro-Palestinian demonstration. A truck-load of police followed the protesters as they marched through Dhaka's streets to observe Al Quds (Jerusalem) Day, which was declared on the last Friday of the Holy Month of Ramadan. The protest was called by Al Quds Committee, a group of Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalists. The protesters also shouted slogans condemning killings of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Kashmir, India. Bangladesh is a predominantly Muslim nation of 111 million people.

## Egypt violence points to deep problems

By William C. Mann  
The Associated Press

CAIRO — President Hosni Mubarak says Islamic fundamentalism in Egypt is an international problem. But many critics say the violent movement emerged because of corruption, unemployment and growing middle class despair at home.

Whatever the causes, the stakes are high. Egypt is the traditional leader of the Arabs, Washington's best Arab friend, and the only Arab country linked by treaty with Israel.

An antagonistic Islamic government in Cairo could be catastrophic for the West, especially given the headline Muslim government in neighbouring Sudan and fundamentalist movements operating in Algeria and elsewhere.

In recent months, religious extremism has seeped through the Nile Valley from Aswan near the Sudan border to Alexandria on the Mediterranean. The state has applied increasingly harsh countermeasures.

"There's been a proliferation of military mentality in all branches of Egyptian life," said analyst Nabil Abdul Fattah. That precludes a political solution, he said, and "we're left with either a Muslim or a military solution."

The current upsurge of violence against the Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) began early last year. More than 130 people have died in extremist violence or

in government reaction to it. Some commentators use variations on the word "war" to describe the conflict.

Mr. Mubarak's government says it is winning, though Mr. Mubarak believes extremism is an "international phenomenon, contaminating the whole world" and requires a global response, according to his spokesman, Mohammad Abdul Monem.

But it is no longer unusual to read commentators in the government-owned press counselling increased attention to the causes of the movement, rather than relying on violence to put it down, or blaming other countries.

Even the governor of strife-torn Assiut province, Major General Hassan Al Alfi, says jobs are vital to fighting extremism.

"The reason we're having trouble with these groups is that the economic and social conditions are deteriorating for the middle class," political scientist Mustafa Kamel Al Sayyed said.

Even if superior government firepower prevails, Mr. Sayyed said, "if the causes that led to extremist violence in the first place are not dealt with, these groups or new groups will come up again."

The violence began in Gen. Alfi's southern province in 1981. Islamic extremists killed Mr. Mubarak's predecessor Anwar Sadat in Cairo, then tried to take Assiut to use as a platform for overthrowing the government. Scores of people, mostly policemen,

died in gun battles before the coup was put down.

Assiut remains the most active region for fundamentalism. Police killed 10 suspects there in a huge shootout Wednesday.

Gen. Alfi said the extremists can be beaten. To do it, he said, Egypt must stop infiltration, provide jobs, increase security and "preach the correct versions of Islam," he said in the government newspaper Al Ahram weekly.

Besides the gun, the government's principal tool against the militants is

government-sponsored religion.

Cairo's Al Azhar mosque has been Islam's centre of learning for 1,000 years. The rector, Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq, holds cabinet rank within the Egyptian government.

"We are not secular people, and Egypt is not a secular country," Sheikh Gad Al Haq recently told Islamic scholars. "Secular people believe that religion is just a question of faith...if some religions comply to this point of view, Islam is not like them, it is religion and gov-

ernment."

Najib Mahfouz, the Egyptian Nobel Prize winning novelist, wrote in his newspaper column of the awakening within the faith.

"We initially welcomed this Islamic awakening. It never occurred to us to fear what it might do to our modern heritage," Mr. Mahfouz wrote.

Instead, he said, it brought "authoritarianism, corruption, military defeats, economic crises, injustice and nepotism (and) a considerable degree of extremism."



Egyptian security forces stand guard in central Assiut, 400 kilometres south of Cairo after a shootout which killed 10 militants and two policemen (AFP photo)

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO  
17:30 ..... Reeves d'ontants  
17:40 ..... Les Cles de Fort Boyard  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Le Journal de L'Histoire  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
20:39 ..... Who's the Boss  
21:10 ..... Equinox  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Simon and Simon

### PRAYER TIMES

06:15 ..... Fajr  
05:35 ..... (Sunrise) Doha  
11:43 ..... Dhuhur  
15:10 ..... 'Asr  
17:51 ..... Maghrib  
19:40 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 870740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 623366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
St. Ann Church Tel. 628208.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624524.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers of rain in the northern parts of the Kingdom, and a slight drop in temperatures is expected. Winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Amman, it will be fair, and winds will be northerly fresh and some wavy.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Bahjat Bader ..... 849562  
Dr. Hisham Kanan ..... 790286  
Dr. Yagha Abdel Rahim ..... 736072  
Dr. Mahmoud Al Hindi ..... 898787  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fardows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asana pharmacy ..... 637655  
Nairokh pharmacy ..... 638372  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 646730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsi pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 347632

EBRD:  
Dr. Nabeel Abul Ola ..... ( )  
Alquds pharmacy ..... ( )

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Russo Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 773121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 666127/37  
Public Security Department ..... 664164/66  
Hotel Complaints ..... 602800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Assam Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 661176  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 016230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 818613/32  
Khafid Maternity, J. Amn. .... 644281/6  
Al-Hilal Maternity, J. Amn. .... 624141/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Ma'ras, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsani ..... 664171/4  
Shamsani Hospital ..... 689131  
University Hospital ..... 848454  
Al-Muhsin Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37  
Al-Ahl, Abdali ..... 664164/66  
Italian, Al-Muhajirun ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafiah ..... 77511/26  
Army, Marja ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Gov. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560  
Bin Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al-Hisam Modern Hospital ..... (09)999990  
EBRD:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)272555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275  
Bin Al Nafesa Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 ..... Amman (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Athens (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Amman, New York (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Athens (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Amman, Cairo (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
06:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Samsa (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Beirut, Rome (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 ..... Cairo (GF)  
06:30 ..... Bahrain (GF)  
06:30 ..... Moscow (SU)  
06:30 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
06:30 ..... Beirut (ME)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Amman (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Rome (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Athens (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Amman, Cairo (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
06:15 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Samsa (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Beirut, Rome (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 ..... Beirut, Rome (RJ)

### MARKET PRICES

Upplower price in fils per kg.  
Apple ..... 700 / 530  
Banana ..... 700 / 700  
Banana (Mekong) ..... 640 / 640  
Beans ..... 1100 / 900  
Cabbage ..... 100 / 50  
Carrot ..... 180 / 120  
Cauliflower ..... 200 / 150  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 150 / 100  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 300 / 200  
Eggplant ..... 280 / 180  
Garlic ..... 800 / 600  
Grapefruit ..... 300 / 200  
Lemon ..... 800 / 600  
Marrow (large) ..... 370 / 300  
Marrow (small) ..... 440 / 330  
Mint ..... 100  
Onion (dry) ..... 210 / 180  
Onion (green) ..... 220 / 160  
Orange ..... 480 / 330  
Pepper (hot) ..... 800 / 600  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 600 / 400  
Potato ..... 220 / 140  
Tomato ..... 150 / 60  
Spinach ..... 120 / 60





## Crown Prince turns 46

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saturday March 20 marked the 46th birthday of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The younger brother of His Majesty King Hussein and heir to the throne, Prince Hassan was born in Amman in 1947. He was proclaimed Crown Prince by Royal Decree in 1965. Throughout, the Crown Prince has played a vital role in the process of development in Jordan.

In the past year, Prince Hassan was active at the international and domestic levels taking part in conferences and seminars, where his addresses often focused on the issues of human rights, a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, and a new concept of strategic policy that directs attention to social, economic and environmental strategies among others.

## King decorates U.N. general

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has awarded Jordan's highest military medal to French General Philippe Morillon in recognition of his bravery as U.N. Commander in Bosnia, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Saturday.

In a telegramme to French President Francois Mitterrand, King Hussein thanked him for France's role in U.N. operations in Bosnia and asked him to present General Morillon the Al-Kawkab first class medal.

The King wrote President Mitterrand that the bestowing of the medal was "in recognition of the courageous personal contribution and principled stand of General Philippe Morillon in upholding the principle that aggression cannot stand and in bringing to the world the torment and suffering of the people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and most vividly in Srebrenica."

General Morillon set up headquarters last week in the Muslim town of Srebrenica, under siege from Serb forces, and vowed not to leave until U.N. aid got through to the inhabitants.



Philippe Morillon

He led a relief convoy into the town on Friday after lengthy negotiations with Serb forces and left on Saturday with a convoy evacuating 100 wounded women and children, according to Serb sources.

## Sharif Zeid reviews Lockerbie standoff with Libyan minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Libya's dispute with the Western countries over the Lockerbie affair and Jordanian-Libyan cooperation in economic fields were at the centre of discussions held in Amman Saturday between Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Libya's Foreign Minister Omar Al Muntasser.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Muntasser, who arrived here earlier in the day, briefed the Prime Minister on the outcome of a seven-Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis to discuss the Lockerbie issue.

The foreign ministers were quoted by diplomatic sources in Tunis as saying that Libya had offered to turn over two men wanted by the United States and Britain to a neutral country for trial in the bombing of a Pan Am passenger jet over Lockerbie, Scotland on December 22, 1988.

Washington, Paris and London suspect Libya of ordering the mid-air bombings. Reports from Tunis said Friday that Arab foreign ministers had agreed to relay to the United Nations new proposals from Libya to break its deadlock with the West over the airline bombings.

But Arab diplomats said the proposals did not change Libya's basic position — that suspects would be surrendered only if they were to stand trial on neutral ground. The foreign ministers met in Tunis on Thursday night and Friday for a fresh attempt to resolve the standoff.

The U.N. Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo on Libya last year in an effort to force the surrender of two men suspected of blowing up the American airliner.

Following the meeting, attended by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber as well as the Libyan ambassador to Jordan and Jordan's ambassador to Libya, Mr. Muntasser said his discussion with Sharif Zeid tackled general Arab issues and topics of common concern to Jordan and Libya. Asked to comment on the reported Libyan offer to the West to help end the crisis over the Lockerbie affair, the Libyan official declined to give details.

"I cannot go into details about this issue and prefer to leave the matter to the Arab League secretary general to divulge them," Mr. Muntasser responded.

But he added that Libya was committed to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 733 over this issue.

Mr. Muntasser expressed hope that the Arab countries would soon find appropriate means to unify their ranks and end their differences.

Dr. Abu Jaber had met earlier with the Libyan official and discussed Jordanian-Libyan relations and Arab affairs.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King congratulates Iranian president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Nowruz Feast. He wished the Iranian president continued good health and the Iranian people further progress and prosperity.

#### Crown Prince leaves for Vienna

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday left for Vienna on a private visit to Austria. Prince Hassan was seen off at the airport by Princes Faisal Ben Al Hussein, and Ghazi Ben Mohammad as well as Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef and senior officials along with the Austrian ambassador to Jordan.

## remembers Karameh

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Sunday observes the 25th anniversary of Al Karameh Battle which took place in 1968 when Israeli troops, supported by armoured vehicles, combat planes and artillery, made incursions in the central Jordan Valley area.

The large scale, three-pronged Israeli attack covered an area of 40-kilometres, stretching from the Prince Mohammad Bridge in the north to the Dead Sea in the south.

The attack was aimed at occupying the eastern heights of the Jordan Valley (the Balqa heights), in order to maintain tight control of the region.

It also aimed to terrorise the local residents of the area into leaving. The large number of troops and personnel who took part in the Israeli attack was clear evidence of the Jewish state's expansionist policies.

Taking part in the battle on the Israeli side were two armoured brigades, one infantry and one paratroop unit, five artillery battalions, four squadrons of fighter planes and a number of helicopters, in addition to two combat divisions.

Despite the large number of military personnel and the air and artillery cover, the battle turned out to be a complete defeat for the Israelis, who were forced to withdraw under the cover of night because of the fierce resistance by the Jordan Armed Forces.

Israeli losses during the battle were three times higher than its losses during the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

On the occasion, His Majesty King Hussein received congratulatory cables from Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, Public Security Department Director Major General Fadel Ali Fheid, and Director General of the Civil Defence Department Major General Afif Al Ghoul.

## Islamic Action Front condemns terrorism but warns West against 'war against Islam'

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's most powerful Islamic movement Saturday condemned terrorism of all forms and shapes, but combined the condemnation with a warning to the West against what it described as waging a war against Islam.

Ishaq Al Farhan, president of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), rejected media suggestions that the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York could have been carried out by a Muslim group.

"Islam is a religion of peace and does not condone terrorism in any form or shape," said Dr. Farhan, addressing a press conference held at the IAF's headquarters.

"Even before charges were filed (against the suspects in the case), the Zionist-inspired media have tried and convicted Islam," said Dr. Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament.

Two Arab Muslims, both of Palestinian origin, were formally

charged in court last week with "aiding and abetting" the blast, which killed six people and wounded over 1,000.

U.S. officials and newspapers have suggested that the suspects, as well as several others sought in the case, are linked to a hardline Egyptian cleric who preaches at a New Jersey mosque.

The media reports, Dr. Farhan said, preempt a fair trial of the case in court.

"The Zionist circles have trapped the Americans and Europeans into believing that Islam poses the biggest threat to humanity," he said, and referred to "anti-Islam" comments by U.S. and European officials in the wake of the trade centre bombing.

"We condemn all forms of terrorism, whether individual, factional or state-sponsored," he said. "Terrorism is against all teachings of Islam."

Dr. Farhan, said the "only beneficiary" from the World Trade Centre bombing was Israel and suggested that "Zionist hands" could be behind the blast



Ishaq Al Farhan

in a bid to "tarnish the image of Islam and Muslims everywhere, particularly Palestine, and shift the attention away from the (Palestinian) expellees" in South Lebanon.

"They want to paint the Arabs and Muslims as terrorists and the Palestinian struggle as terrorism," he said. "Isn't it the right of the Palestinian people to resist the (Israeli) occupation of their land just as the French had the right to resist (the German) occupation (during World War II)?"

According to Dr. Farhan, the New York blast is part of a

"Western-Zionist assault against Islam and Muslims" prompted by "fears that Islam would replace socialism," which ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the East bloc.

"The identity of Islam and the Arab World is under attack, and we should resist the assault with all our might," he said.

The purported anti-Islam campaign, he argued, started with the Gulf war against Iraq and continues with "what is happening in Palestine, Bosnia, Kashmir, Somalia, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, the Philippines, Burma, India and wherever Muslims live."

Dr. Farhan noted that the main theme that Israeli President Chaim Herzog took to European capitals during a recent visit was "the threat posed to humanity by Islam" and that several European leaders appear to have picked up the slogan.

Dr. Farhan said: "Let the West, led by the U.S. and Zionists, be warned against pursuing aggressive policies against Islam and making Muslims, who constitute one-fifth of the world

population, an enemy. "Islam is a reality and it is here to stay. Nobody can eliminate it with military weapons and conspiracies. The way to deal with it is people and their wishes."

Dr. Farhan and Abdullah Akaileh, a member of the Lower House of Parliament representing the Muslim Brotherhood bloc, called on the media to counter the "offensive against Islam."

"This is war," said Dr. Akaileh.

Both politicians condemned the spate of extremist attacks against tourists in Egypt, but qualified that denunciation by accusing the Cairo government of waging a "war of annihilation" against Islamic movements in the country.

"How will anyone react to the murder of his own family members by security forces of a regime which practices state terrorism?" asked Dr. Akaileh, citing last week's police stormings of a mosque in the southern Egyptian town of Aswan residences in Cairo. At least 40 people were killed in the assaults.

## JD 325,000 raised so far in 3rd annual charity drive

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday announced that the Third Annual Charity Campaign to help needy families in Jordan has so far raised JD 325,000 and was expected to collect JD 350,000 by the end of the month of Ramadan.

Addressing a press conference to report on the campaign, Princess Basma said the drive would not have achieved such success without the active help of nearly 15,000 volunteer boyscouts and girl guides, the Ministry of Education, private schools, com-

munity colleges and universities, as well as the industrial and commercial sectors.

The campaign will continue until the end of the holy month and it is hoped that more donations will be collected, said the Princess, who is also Honorary Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

The Princess said in last year's campaign, QAF collected JD 115,000 adding that the increase achieved this year will help QAF to add more needy families to its distribution lists.

She announced the creation of a committee, led by Mamdouh Abbadi, to supervise the distribution of the donations.

She added that the QAF programme included the initiation of a number of income-generating projects in some areas.

In thanking the various organisations and the media that extended help in the charity drive, Princess Basma said the aid programme was intended to foster the concept of social solidarity among the members of the Jordanian society during Ramadan.

## UNRWA may ask fees from refugees

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees said it is considering charging refugees in Jordan token fees to help it cope with a growing budget deficit.

The deficit will put more and more strain on every aspect of our operations, Dennis Brown, head of (UNRWA) office in Jordan, told Reuters.

The population continues to grow while the budget remains stagnant and the gap between both gets wider and wider.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen said in Vienna last week that the agency may soon be forced to reduce its

services if it did not receive additional contributions to cut a \$28.5 million deficit in its \$300 million budget for this year.

The agency offers education, health and social services to about 2.7 million Palestinian refugees in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Mr. Brown said UNRWA's hiring of new physicians and teachers this year would not meet the increased demand from population growth of up to five per cent in Palestinian communities, further reducing the quality of health and education.

He said UNRWA was looking into prospects of making refugees pay a small fee for its health

services and vocational training programmes in Jordan to help offset the deficit.

It is better to try and raise a small amount of money than to actually cut the service, Mr. Brown said. "We know they (the refugees) are not going to be happy, but what is our alternative?"

He said no decision had been made on the amount of the proposed fees or when they might be implemented.

Mr. Brown said UNRWA's deficit has widened because key Western donors have not pledged more money as most of them were trying to trim their own budget deficits and help fund new relief operations like those in famine-hit Somalia and in Bos-

nia.

An offer by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to donate \$50 million in oil revenue to UNRWA is unlikely to be approved by the U.N. Sanctions Committee which has enforced a sweeping trade ban against Baghdad since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Brown said Vienna-based UNRWA had begun cutting administrative costs in an effort to slash the deficit by half. He said none of those measures had affected services to the refugees or led to staff redundancies.

But he said cuts affecting services could be expected if donors failed to come up with the shortfall.

UNRWA officials said the agency was putting particular emphasis on appealing for funds from the Gulf Arab states which now contribute only about 1.5 per cent of its budget.

The United States and the European Community provide most of UNRWA's funds.

## YWCA president visits Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) World President Razia Ismail is on a special visit to Jordan and was received Saturday by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, together with President of YWCA-Jordan Leila Najjar and 10 council members.

Miss Ismail was elected president in World YWCA Council meeting in Norway in 1991 when 75 YWCAs were represented.

Miss Ismail, who is Chief of External Relations and Public Affairs of the India Country Programme at United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) in New Delhi, believes that women's best path to their own progress is to get involved in the broader issues of development. According to Miss Ismail her personal commitment as president is to give the deepest possible meaning to the World YWCA's attainment of its first 100 years to service in 1994, through expressing in concrete terms its policy statement on participatory development in its advocacy and action, from world level to the simplest local community activity.

Miss Ismail, who is Indian, is a former journalist and is active in human rights issues.

The World YWCA is continuing its efforts in appealing for the unconditional return of Palestinians expelled by Israel.

## Cabinet approves 4th party paper

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Cabinet approved Saturday granting a licence to the Jordan Democratic Progressive Party (JDPP) to issue a weekly newspaper to be named Al Maseera (The March).

The newspaper, which was licensed in the name of the party's Secretary General Ali Amer, is the fourth political publication to be licensed under interim arrangements with the government pending the enactment of the new press and publications law.

The 1973 law provides for licences to be issued to a Jordan Press Association member, a university graduate, a press establishment or a news agency.

The licence was granted in the name of Mr. Amer because he is

a university graduate.

The three other political parties, granted publishing licences under the same circumstances were Suleiman Arar's Al Mustakbal Party, Abdul Hadi Al Majali's Al Ahd Party and Tayser Al Zibri's the Jordan People's Democratic Party.

According to Rasmi Mahasna of the Press and Publications Department, four other parties are awaiting Cabinet approval to issue their weekly newspapers.

These are Yacoub Zayadeen's "Al Jamaheer" of the Jordan Communist Party, Mijhem Al Khreisheh's "Sawt Al Urdun" of the Jordan National Alliance and Tayser Al Himsi's Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party publication.

Mr. Mahasna said all these publications were approved by the department, but are now waiting for Cabinet approval.

## Islamic group urges support for Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) Saturday issued a statement in Amman denouncing the ongoing "criminal acts committed against the Palestinian people by the Israeli authorities."

The statement, issued in observance of the World Islamic Day for Palestine, appealed to the Islamic nations to extend support to the Palestinians to back efforts contributing to the cause of Jerusalem and Palestine. It urged the Arab and Islamic

countries to show and practice solidarity with the Palestinian people and to extend material and moral assistance to the oppressed people under Israeli rule.

The statement called on all Muslims around the world to support the Palestinians to end the occupation and to help them attain self determination on Palestinian soil.

It also urged the Muslims to transcend their present differences and defend the Islamic shirnes in Palestine.

## Jordan opposes cuts to UNRWA services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has voiced its total opposition to any move by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to reduce its services to Palestinian refugees if the agency did not receive additional contributions to cover the projected 1993 budget, according to Adel Irshaid, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs.

Speaking upon his return here Saturday from a meeting in Vienna by the agency's advisory commission, Mr. Irshaid said the Jordanian delegation pointed to the dangers inherent in such a move resulting from a deficit in the agency's budget.

He said a reduction of UNRWA's services to the refugees would naturally mean an increase of burdens on the Arab governments hosting the refugees, particularly Jordan which hosts the majority of them.

According to UNRWA's latest statistical report, nearly 39 per cent of the total number of Palestinian refugees live in the Kingdom, with the rest dispersed over the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Syria.

The UNRWA statistics said the total number of registered refugees alone stood at 1.787 million.

The expected plan by UNRWA to reduce the services to the refugees was revealed to the commission meeting in Vienna on March 15 by UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen, who said that the agency's financial crisis coincides with growing demands on services particularly in Lebanon and the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Referring to other Jordanian ideas put forth at the Vienna meeting, Mr. Irshaid said in order to cut down on administrative expenses, Jordan demanded the transfer of the agency's headquarters from Vienna to UNRWA's field of operations either in Jordan, Syria or Lebanon, as was the case prior to the move to Vienna.

Jordan has also proposed that an urgent appeal be issued to three donor nations to increase their contributions to UNRWA and that the agency's budget be submitted for study at the United Nations, Mr. Irshaid said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Scientific exhibition of projects designed by students at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), including computers and computer programmes, at JUST.

★ Exhibition entitled the Memory of Silk, displaying traditional Jordanian and Palestinian costumes, shawls, carpets, pottery, copperware, from the Widad Kaway collection — at the French Cultural Centre.



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## Piracy and diplomacy

IS IT conceivable that Washington is still suffering from the hangover of the Gulf war as far as Jordan is concerned? Over two years have elapsed since that war ended, and yet the U.S. is still treating this country as if we remain in the enemy's camp. The best evidence of this inexplicable attitude is the turning back of Aqaba-bound ships — three this month alone — carrying general cargo to Jordanian importers. The third vessel, a Sudanese-flag ship chartered by a largely Jordanian government-owned shipping company, has just been turned back to Port Suez and this latest interference with free shipping came on the heel of two similar episodes involving Norwegian and Sudanese cargo ships transporting non-military goods from Western countries. Coming as it does only hours after the conclusion of joint U.S.-Jordanian military manoeuvres, one is at a loss to explain the rationale behind this behaviour, particularly when the goods freighted to Jordan originated mostly in Western countries and the carrier, the National Shipping Lines, is 75 per cent government owned. If the U.S. government did take a complete stock of Jordan's policies, both domestic and external, one would have thought that Amman would be rewarded and not penalised for them.

To start with Jordan has abided faithfully and to the best of its ability by the U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed on Iraq. There is no such thing as a fool-proof sanctions mechanism, no matter how hard countries try to enforce them. The Iraqi borders with Iran and Turkey are nearly side open with no significant reaction from the U.S. Picking on Jordan all the time when it has put into practice increasingly stiff measures to plug any existing loopholes is not something that augurs well for the role of Jordan in the ongoing peace process or with its determined efforts to nurture pluralistic democracy. Is it possible that in spite of the country's peaceful and progressive roles in the Middle East, there is still a determined effort to break the back of this country? How else can one interpret the persistent efforts to cut off the country's only sea outlet from the outside world. Perhaps there is a bad communication line between the U.S. inspectors in the high seas and Washington, and if this is the case it is high time that the U.S. State Department put an end to the over-exploited and abused excuse often offered by American Marines in the Tiran Straits that cargo destined for Jordan is inaccessible to easy inspection. The place to control and check cargo is at points of origin, if at all. There are no doubt that British, French and other European exporters are observing the sanctions regime against Iraq? Some of the cargo intercepted originates in the U.S. itself, we might add. There must be a better way than to handle this problem other than bleeding Jordan to death. Otherwise this country must take effective counter measures including the overhaul of its foreign policies towards its presumably good friends and allies. Piracy in diplomatic relations would simply not work.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily Tuesday discussed the stepped up campaign against the Aqaba-bound ships and demanded an immediate end to what it called arbitrary actions being taken by the foreign naval forces against Jordan. The naval forces have been turning back vessels laden with food stuff and other items for Jordan in flagrant violation of free maritime operations and in total disregard for Jordan's sovereignty, said the daily. This harassment of Jordanian-bound shipping is meant as a dangerous move, manifesting a tendency to take revenge on Jordan for its national stand and to pressure this Kingdom into succumbing to other nations' desires and whims, said the daily. This harassment, it added, is bound to cause further economic hardships to the Kingdom which is overburdened with numerous headaches, it said. The paper said that in the space of one month the naval forces have turned back three cargo vessels carrying essential goods to Jordan under unconvincing pretexts. Jordan has been fully committed to the U.N. resolutions and has been honouring the embargo all along, especially with regard to the imported goods via Aqaba, the paper continued. It said that the naval blockade on Aqaba could be motivated by evil forces, hostile to the Kingdom and aiming to impoverish this country. One can only ask what objectives can be achieved by the U.S.-led naval forces through this continued harassment, knowing that the goods turned back are all essential food stuffs for the people of Jordan. The paper said that every possible way should be followed in order to end the harassment of Jordan which is totally committed to the international legitimacy and continuously honours all U.N. resolutions.

MAHMOUD RIMAWI, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, demanded that Washington show more seriousness in matters related to the peace process in order to lure the parties to the talks. The writer said that Washington ought to stop playing the double standard role and adopt contradictory attitudes if it is really oriented towards achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East. First and foremost, the writer said, Washington should see to it that Resolution 799 is implemented so that the Palestinians can be persuaded to go to the negotiations, feeling no embarrassment before the Palestinian public. Washington should also make it clear that Resolution 242 still forms the basis for any solution which should be lasting, he said. The writer said that the Israelis should not be absolved of the sin of trying to impede progress in the peace process or of the atrocities committed against the Palestinians. He said the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus should make these demands clear to the U.S. administration and should get a favourable response before they resume talks about the resumption of peace process.

## Economic Forum

# Privatisation reappraised

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

I follow up, with keen interest, the application by economic policies of various theories, as this represents some sort of experimentation that verifies these theories and determines how fit they are to survive and to address factual challenges. Supply-side economics, currency devaluation in developing countries, and floating of interest rates are examples of this brand of academics. Privatisation is another one.

This Thatcher-initiated Reagan-backed policy device was enthusiastically received in various countries and quarters and by numerous shades of opinion. Although it has abated in the West and to a lesser degree in developing countries, privatisation is still in its prime in the socialist and ex-socialist countries. As with so many other things, privatisation is easier and nicer said than practically applied.

In Jordan, it is interesting to notice that we have not taken one actual step in the field of privatisation although we have talked volumes about it. However, this delay may be useful if we can benefit from the experience of other countries in this field.

"Euromoney" published in its April 1993 issue an opinion on the lessons learned from the privatisation experiments of various countries. The related article was written by an "American merchant banker based in London" under the nickname of

Gallatin who chose to highlight the dangers of privatisation. The following paragraphs present the essence of that opinion.

Dangers that accompany privatisation may be macroeconomic dangers, which affect the country's economic viability or security, microeconomic dangers, that affect the health of the company being privatised, and dangers to the government's privatisation process if it is inadequately managed.

The cardinal danger is the threat of unemployment which materialises in almost all circumstances. Where unemployment is already a problem, privatisation can hardly be a consolation on whatever count. This applies to Jordan and is probably one reason why privatisation plans have not taken off.

Privatisation may cause the loss of control of a vital industry. In advanced economies, this poses less of a problem. In less advanced ones, it may be a mistake to let go too soon of a vital state asset.

Privatisation can cause disruption to the business being privatised. Small-scale businesses acquired by foreign or private investors may benefit. But in many other companies the results of lay-offs on a massive scale, the requirement to retool entire plants and the challenge of setting up new distribution systems will affect productivity over the long run. Indeed, the record of even

successful acquisitions in highly-industrialised economies is mixed at best.

In the face of these three main dangers, Gallatin gives three major bits of advice. Governments must beware privatising lame-duck companies or companies in lame-duck industries. Second, they must be clear about their objectives which can range from receiving maximum privatisation proceeds to making an ideological break with state socialism; rarely only one objective is the motivating factor. Third, governments must decide whether the benefits of a privatisation outweigh the cost to society, especially in the likely level of unemployment that will ensue.

The conclusion? As time goes on, privatisation will become ever-more imprudent. It is the motivations of privatising governments which will determine the privatisations of the future. The failure of state-imposed economics rules out the option of central planning but it may, in time, expose the weaknesses of total free-market capitalism. Governments will begin to act like any other shareholder. They will manage their industrial participations through a holding company, selling and buying stakes primarily on the basis of industrial and financial logic. Privatisation, no panacea, will become one option among many, for buyers and sellers alike.

## Middle East: Clinton takes a sharp turn

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — In no place is Bill Clinton diverging more from George Bush's foreign policy than in the Middle East. Perhaps this will work out well in the end, but at the moment it looks as though Mr. Clinton, who has said he believes he has "a real shot" at peace, has not begun hitting the target.

To judge by results, Mr. Bush had the right formula: Be demanding but fair with both Israel and the Arabs, and intervene assertively to move things along on all fronts. This is how he and his secretary of state, James Baker, created constituencies for negotiation in all the key places and moved on to launch broad Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In style, Mr. Clinton has, as he promised he would, replace Mr. Bush's steely (and to many Israelis, unyielding), evenhanded detachment from Israel with a public embrace. For the moment, this has calmed the alarm that Israelis feel whenever the United States closes in to shape their fate. Mr. Clinton's rhetoric is warm, he stresses the elements of cooperation in the relationship, and aid flows freely even in these austere times.

This week Mr. Clinton even repulsed an appeal by visiting President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to seek a further "small step" from Israel on the boiling (for Arabs) issue of allowing the "immediate" repatriation of Palestinian deportees that the United Nations has ordered. Israel has already done "enough" to draw the Palestinians back to the peace table in Washington on April 20, Mr. Clinton said. The battered Mr. Mubarak was left to put a brave face on this rebuff to America's first friend in the Arab World.

In the substance of his diplomacy, Mr. Clinton seems to be stepping back from the Bush attempt to engage across the whole Arab-Israeli spectrum. Instead, he is moving towards an emphasis on a Syria-first strategy, leaving the Palestinians to be isolated.

Syria-first proceeds from a hard-headed reading — Yitzhak Rabin's reading — that Syria has lost its global patron, the Soviet Union, and has seen the shrinkage of its principal Arab rival, Iraq, and is ready for an American-expedited peace-for-territory swap on the model that Egypt and Israel fashioned 15 years ago.

Prime Minister Rabin has, with some boldness, started preparing the Israeli public to work with

Damascus. He prefers his old partner in Israeli-Syrian disengagement in the 1970s, President Hafez Al Assad, to the divided Palestinians. Mr. Rabin is under voter pressure for not delivering a quick agreement on Palestinian autonomy, and he could expect to profit from an early negotiation with Syria.

Meanwhile, Israel can always argue — this is the Middle East way — that turning to Syria and playing hard to get with the Palestinians is the best way to bring the Palestinians around.

You can see why Mr. Rabin and Mr. Clinton would be inclined to go down this road, especially if, as seems conceivable, Mr. Assad is prepared to cut a deal that leaves Palestinians in the lurch. Why should Israel be more solicitous of the Palestinians' interests than are their Arab brothers in Damascus?

It is a fair question, and there is a sobering answer: because Israel has far more at stake in accommodating the Palestinians than Syria does. For the Syrians the Palestinians are a pest. For the Israelis they are literally the bane of their existence. However, tattered their policy and status at any given moment, Palestinians represent in Arab politics an overwhelming symbol of loss to western intrusion. Whether Palestinians can find their political progress is not.

Mr. Rabin looks at the favourable strategic circumstances, at Palestinian violence and division and at the gathering political clouds at home on his right. He is sorely tempted to go for the deal with Syria, as Menachem Begin went for the deal with Egypt, and to slow the dealing with the Palestinians. As short-term policy it is defensible.

But the United States has its own responsibilities as Israel's abiding friend and also as leading arbiter of Middle East stability. It should be using the strategic advantages to address the whole Middle East problem and not just part of it. It should be giving Israel the full and tough support that will enable it to take the further risks of engagement with the Palestinians. It should be extending, to coexistence and democracy-minded Palestinians, respect for their political rights.

It has taken 15 years since Egypt and Israel made peace to get into position for a second slice. The opening is there if Mr. Clinton wants to help — The Washington Post.

## Publishers bank on the awakening of Islam in Europe

By Tom Porteous

CAMBRIDGE, England — The esoteric logo of the Islamic Texts Society above the Green Street Bookshop in the heart of this ancient university city is a palm tree bearing two fat bunches of dates, with a crescent moon on one side and a burning sun on the other. The sign is made of finely worked metal coated in gold. Harking back to an earlier age of arcane symbolism, the insignia blends perfectly with the collegial medieval architecture and spiritual ethos of the university.

It is part of an eye for detail and excellence of design, which, in the decade since its foundation, has set the Islamic Texts Society among the most successful small publishing houses in Britain. In 1991 the society won a British Book Design Award for its English edition of the "innovations" of Hamid Al Ghazali, the 11th century Muslim theologian and mystic. This year, a new publication has been named winner of the same award, and the society is on the short list for the Sunday Times Small Publisher Award.

Such recognition from the arbiters of publishing standards in Britain is exceptional. It is all the more remarkable for a publishing house that specialises in Islamic theology and mysticism, with the aim of promoting "greater understanding of Islam in the West" through publishing English translations of works of traditional importance to the faith and culture of the Islam.

"The first aim," said society director Abd Al Rahman Azzam, "was to make available in a bookshop the vast corpus of Islamic literature which had never been available to western readers. There were plenty of books on Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, but nothing on medieval Islamic thought." It was in this spirit that, when it opened in 1981, the society started publishing translations of Al Ghazali's 40-volume "Revival of Religious Sciences," a seminal text of Islamic mystical theology. So far, three volumes have appeared.

"One day you will be able to get immediate access to the top thinkers of Islam in English," Mr. Azzam said. "You'll be able to go into a shop and pick up Al Ghazali in the same way as you can now pick up Plato or Aristotle."

In addition to publishing about eight books a year, the society's Green Street bookshop stocks a wide range of books on Islam and the Muslim world. It claims to be able to supply customers all over the world with any available book on Islam. But, as the society's director explains, the founders and patrons of the Islamic Texts Society had another aim based on specific views about the changing role of Islam in the West and the

importance to Islam of the emerging community of European Muslims.

"The second aim of the society," Mr. Azzam said, "was to provide a platform for western Muslims to prove that Islam is not a religion based in the East or an Arab religion, but a universal one. There are many British, European and American Muslims who want to articulate this, and the society has made available the works of modern western Muslims like Martin Lings — whose 'Life of the Prophet Mohammad' has been reprinted several times — or Titus Burkhardt, Gal Eaton and European Muslim thinkers who wanted to express the mystical dimension that had attracted them to Islam."

This aspect gives the Islamic Texts Society its distinctive quality, setting it apart from the majority of Islamic publishing houses. According to its regular Muslim customers, the high quality of the society's books, the awards and the prominent profile are indicative of the cultural importance, intellectual vitality and moral confidence of a new European Muslim community.

"What we are witnessing is the birth of Islam in Europe," said Mr. Azzam, whose grandfather was a prominent Egyptian statesman and one of the founders of the Arab League. "It is very interesting and exciting because the leading intellectuals of Islam are now based in the West." He compares the phenomenon to the early spread of Islam in the 7th and 8th centuries in Persia, Africa and Spain, when the religion permeated and integrated with the culture of its host country.

"There is a great difference between Muslim Indonesian culture and Muslim African culture," Mr. Azzam said, "but it's all one religion. What is happening now is that you have a growing number of European Muslims in Europe, many of them of Asian or Arab parentage, but completely westernised, completely confident with the West, without the colonial complexes which their grandfathers may have had or which Muslims in the Muslim World may still have. These western Muslims know exactly what they want. They can see that the West is crumbling morally. We are witnessing the birth of the European Muslim movement and this society is one of its voices."

Mr. Azzam sees no similarities between the Islamic awakening in Europe and the growth of Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East and North Africa. Indeed, he says, political Islam may be one of the reasons why intellectual debate among Muslims in the Arab World is debased at present and much less dynamic and productive than is debate among Muslims in Europe. "If you look back fifty or a hundred years, there were quite a few Muslim

intellectuals in Egypt, which is supposed to be the intellectual centre of the Arab World," Mr. Azzam said. "Today, there are no Muslim thinkers or writers there worth their weight. The debate in the Muslim World is a purely political debate. People in government and opposition are using Islam as a political tool, just as they used to use Arab socialism."

According to Mr. Azzam, Muslim fundamentalism is the product of social and economic conditions. If conditions were improved, fundamentalism would cease to be a problem. "If you gave young people an opportunity to work, you would remove their frustrations, and they would stop agitating," he said. "What we do see in these Muslim countries is an intellectual response to fundamentalism, which is sad."

Unburdened by pressing political, economic and social concerns, the Islamic debate in Europe has its starting point not in social and economic degradation but with the search of well-educated European Muslims for a spiritual path. With the majority of the community of Asian or African descent, they find themselves caught between East and West, conversant with the customs and styles of both but looking for something universal that transcends regional and racial barriers. "Intellectually, they are looking for answers," Mr. Azzam said. "These people have chosen Islam because of its mystical dimensions and because they found that the Christian church, fragmented by the rearguard action it is fighting against secularism, no longer answers their needs. Through Islam, Muslims have articulated answers to specific questions, like how one can practice his faith in a secular world."

This rationale gives the publications of the Islamic Texts Society — and the books it stocks — a distinctly mystical flavour. In addition to Al Ghazali's "Revival of the Religious Sciences" (Ihya' Ulum Al Din), the society's books include such classic titles as "The Secret of Secrets" by the 12th century Muslim saint Abd Al Qadir Al Jilani; the famous "Treatise on the Foundations of Islamic Jurisprudence" by Al Imam Al Shafi'i, who founded one of the four schools of Islamic law in the 2nd century of the Muslim era; Al Tabari's commentary on the Qur'an; and Imam Al Bayhaqi's "Seventy-Seven Branches of the Faith."

The society's modern titles include some of the most original, profound texts written on Islamic mysticism — many by European Muslims. Among this year's titles will be the first full English biography of the Andalusian mystic, Al Shaikh Al Akbar Mohieddin Ibn Arabi. A new work on the extraordinary Moroccan saint and hermit Moulay Abdessalaam

Abu Madyan is also planned. A new series of monographs on Muslim masters will give readers access to concise biographies of personalities who have shaped Islam, including founders of the religion, statesmen, thinkers, travelers and reformers.

Another of this year's publications underline the society's ability to plug its spiritual agenda into more superficial market trends. When Mr. Azzam's grandfather was secretary general of the Arab League in the 1940s, he wrote a book on Islam called "The Eternal Message." Later, when he was at the United Nations, he met Malcolm X, the Black American Muslim radical. The two apparently became friends, and, after reading "The Eternal Message," Malcolm X began to turn away from the radical, anti-white movement — the Nation of Islam — of which he had become a chief spokesman; he later moved towards a more spiritual interpretation of Islam.

"This was the book that really changed Malcolm X's life," said Mr. Azzam, who has republished his grandfather's book to coincide with the release of Spike Lee's controversial film biography of Malcolm X, "Malcolm X: The Last Days of a Prophet." The Islamic Texts Society has sold several copies of the book in prepublication orders.

The society, which was founded as an educational, charitable organisation, depended on donations from wealthy Muslims who support its agenda worldwide. Two years ago, the society became a commercial concern, and, judging from its present performance, Mr. Azzam predicts that within two or three years it will be breaking even. If correct, it will be a stunning achievement in a climate of economic recession that has hit the publishing world particularly badly.

Being based in the West, the society is aware that what attracts the westerner to Islam and what attracts the born Muslim living in the West looking for a spiritual path is the mystical dimension. "The social dimension is simply missing here in the West," Mr. Azzam said, "so the vast majority of the books requested are those that speak of Islam as a spiritual path." Yet, Mr. Azzam added, with the spirituality of Islam taking root in the West, the social dimension may become more important as European Muslims permeate the society in which they live. "You're getting a lot of intellectual, middle-class jobs filled with ambitious, articulate Muslims, and this is a very encouraging sign. In 30 or 40 years' time, you will have a lot of Muslims at different and important levels of society who will, through the democratic process, be able to influence and model society, just as the Jews have done for centuries" — World News Link.

## Ukraine likely to ratify START-I, problems remain

By John Morrison  
Reuters

KIEV — After months of delay, Ukraine now looks ready to ratify the START-I treaty, but uncertainty over the nuclear weapons left on its territory by the breakup of the Soviet Union is likely to remain.

President Leonid Kravchuk has told Reuters that he expected parliament to begin discussing the treaty on April 21. "It will be ratified. I have no doubt at all," Mr. Kravchuk predicted.

Officials told Reuters that closed committee hearings were basically complete and parliament's presidium would decide by Monday whether to put the treaty on next week's agenda. It is not yet clear if parliament will simultaneously ratify the so-

called Lisbon Protocol signed a year ago which commits Ukraine to giving up all its nuclear arms and joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Ukraine's ratification of both documents would put in place a missing piece of a complex international arms control jigsaw.

Western diplomats in Kiev predict ratification on START-I, but they caution that big problems remain to be solved before all the nuclear weapons in Ukraine are finally dismantled sometime in the 1990s.

At stake are 130 SS-19 and 46 SS-24 multiple-warhead strategic missiles, and a number of air-launched nuclear cruise missiles carried on TU-95 Bear and PU-160 Blackjack heavy bombers. Tactical nuclear arms were withdrawn to Russia in 1992.

According to the Moscow newspaper Izvestia there are around 1,200 strategic missile warheads and more than 600 air-launched cruise missile warheads in Ukraine.

Russia has accused Ukraine of trying to become a nuclear power through the back door by claiming ownership of the weapons. Mr. Kravchuk vigorously denied this in his interview, describing the Russian charges as "deliberate falsification."

He said Ukraine was claiming ownership not of the warheads themselves, but only of "components" — the valuable fissile material which Kiev hopes to recover when they are dismantled.

He scoffed at the idea of Ukraine hanging on to the missiles as an independent nuclear

power — an idea which some nationalist politicians have advocated to bolster their country's security against Russia.

"Every sensible person knows that all the electronic circuits, everything which controls the warheads are in Moscow and Ukraine can not change that, even if it wanted to."

"For Ukraine to have its own nuclear forces it would have to take the warheads off and replace them with its own, produced in Ukraine. We have neither the nuclear industry nor the intention to do this," Mr. Kravchuk said.

Mr. Kravchuk said Ukraine would continue to refuse demands from Moscow that the weapons, now under the command of the Commonwealth of Independent States, should be placed under Russian command,

"A change of status would mean a host of political and legal problems. If the nuclear forces in Ukraine become Russian, then the forces servicing them would be Russian. So the problem arises of the status of troops of another state on Ukrainian territory," Mr. Kravchuk explained.

Ukraine's complaint is that the West, particularly the United States, is looking at the nuclear issue through Russian eyes and ignoring Kiev's security interests.

Mr. Kravchuk made clear he was bitter at strong diplomatic pressure from Washington to speed up ratification of START-I, which cannot enter into force until Ukraine approves it.

He also said that implementation of the treaty would depend on Ukraine getting satisfaction on its demands for better security

guarantees and financial compensation for voluntarily renouncing the world's third biggest nuclear arsenal.

"We will not take a single step backwards, no matter whom it pleases or displeases. We are defending Ukrainian interests," he declared.

The U.S. has promised Ukraine \$175 million to help dismantle the weapons while Ukraine has mentioned sums running into billions of dollars. Ukraine is also unhappy with the level of security guarantees that the U.S. and other nuclear powers are prepared to offer.

Washington and Moscow want to push ahead with ratification of far deeper cut in nuclear arms agreed under the START-2 treaty, and are showing increasing impatience with Ukraine.

مكتبة مركز الأمل



(Continued from page 1)

In reply to another question, the King said he was hoping that everyone would benefit from the lessons of the past and that dialogue will dominate dealings among nations.

"I believe that there is a great need for the world community and the United Nations to adopt a sound and fair criteria applying the same principles and standards in all cases," he said.

"The world is facing a dangerous situation due to the existence of mass destruction weapons in the Middle East," the King said. "For example we have the case of a state in this region which has

(Continued from page 1)

centre for the detention and torture of children — and of adults — was a security police camp at Kilometre 25 on the main desert highway from Cairo to Alexandria.

It said two boys aged 15 and 16, Mohammad and Ashraf Al Zayyat, had been tortured there for more than three weeks.

"They were subjected to severe torture which went on for 23 days which included beatings with coiled wire and hanging in different positions and electric shocks to the genitals," the report said.

"They were forced to stand naked in the court of the prison during the late hours of the night, sometimes, for up to three hours, where they were drenched with ice water," it added.

The report said it had evidence that a 23-year-old man, Ahmad

(Continued from page 1)

Strip to create jobs for Palestinians.

The prime minister, who returned three days ahead of schedule, reiterated his stance that security for Israelis could best be achieved through a peace agreement.

"There was a wave, a tough wave of terror," Mr. Rabin said. "But you have to remember that the basic coalition to the problem is in the continuation of the peace talks."

He added that he believed the Arab-Israeli talks would resume as scheduled April 20.

Mr. Rabin said security procedures would be more strictly enforced to prevent attacks and urged citizens to be more alert for "suspicious" Arabs.

"I would greatly welcome a decrease in the employment of Palestinians in Israel," Mr. Rabin said. "As long as their number is reduced, the level of danger will be reduced."

"It turns out that the coexistence under the existing circumstances creates difficulties," Mr. Rabin said.

## (Continued from page 1)

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) territory. "A stationing my come about, which Germany would regret politically, in which our crew would have to withdraw from the AWACS planes," he said, referring to surveillance aircraft that would guide NATO warplanes patrolling Bosnian skies.

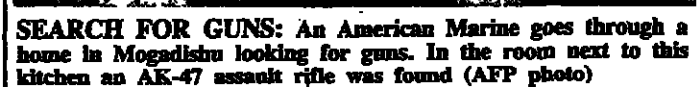
"For the 10 years this government coalition has existed, it has based its action on the principle of no out-of-area missions for the armed forces," the spokesman told Reuters.

not yet ratified the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has massed a great deal of nuclear weapons as we all know.

"We also continue to witness double standard dealings regarding different problems, a situation which we all hope to end in the future."

He expressed the view that as long as issues remain unresolved, the world would witness further proliferation of mass destruction weapons.

On the prospect of visiting Chile with Her Majesty Queen Noor, the King said he always had the desire to make the visit to that Latin American country. He expressed hope to make the visit during 1993.



## (Continued from page 1)

conference boycott by Gen. Aideded.

Gen. Aideded and his allies have not left the conference and have been holding talks with other Somali factions and senior U.N. officials.

Somali experts said Gen. Aideded did not want to derail the conference, but was intent on

## (Continued from page 1)

clearly define the separation of powers between the executive and the legislative branches. Those functions were not well defined in the Soviet era constitution, which was based on Communist Party rule.

showing his political muscle at every stage.

On Friday, Gen. Aideded appeared to have taken a more conciliatory line in a meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's new special representative for Somalia.

Gen. Aideded told Admiral Jonathan Howe, a former U.S. national security adviser, that the SNA would give all cooperation needed to solve Somalia's crisis.

of confidence in the president is taken, there will be a vote on the draft of a new constitution and a law on the election of a federal parliament," he said in the speech.

Leaders of the Supreme Soviet, the smaller standing legislature, scheduled a news conference Saturday night to discuss Mr. Yeltsin's speech.

PASCAGOULA (AP) — The of that relationship."

first of a new class of Corvettes being built for the Israeli navy was launched Friday at Ingalls shipbuilding.

In many ways, this great ship Eilat is symbolic of Israel," Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, told about 300 people who attended the ceremony. "She is small, fast, powerful and sophisticated... with lots of firepower."

The ship is the first of three Sa'ar 5 Corvettes being built for Israel by the shipyard. The construction marks the first time Ingalls has built a ship for a foreign government.

Efrat Rabinovich, the ambassador's wife, broke the traditional bottle of champagne on the dow of the sleek Corvette.

Mr. Rabinovich said the warship is expected to play a key role in maintaining Israel's access to sea lanes.

"Eilat cements the relationship between Israel and the United States," Mr. Rabinovich said. "Our partnership is based on shared ideas, shared emotions and shared interests. The decision to build Sa'ar 5 class Corvettes elevated the strategic dialogue and friendship between our two countries. The construction of this ship is another manifestation

Mr. Rabinovich apologized to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who had been scheduled to speak at the ceremony. Mr. Rabin cut short a visit to the United States to return home because of increased unrest.

Mr. Rabinovich said Mr. Rabin's visit had accomplished the mission of cementing relations with the United States.

Several high ranking Israeli defense officials were on hand at the ceremony, including Adm. Ami Ayalon, commander in chief of the Israeli navy.

Adm. Ayalon said the name "Eilat" has a proud history in the Israeli navy.

The first of four ships to carry the name was a converted U.S. coast guard vessel first used during Jewish resistance to British rule, then brought to Israel after World War II. Adm. Ayalon said the ship was later used as a training vessel.

Jerry St. Pe', Ingalls president, said the ceremony marked a "unique occasion" in that it's the first time in five decades of shipbuilding that we have launched a ship named after anyone except the U.S. Navy.

"We were privileged to build this vessel. We are committed to meet or exceed all expectations

ISLAMABAD, Afghanistan (R) — cabinet Mr. Emad said

— Afghanistans fractious guerrilla parties Saturday postponed talks on forming a cabinet and agreed that their leaders would meet in Kabul on March 29 to hammer out a final agreement.

"Because of several problems we did not succeed in forming a cabinet by the deadline tomorrow," said Noorullah Emad, representing President Burhanuddin Rabbani at the talks that began Friday in this eastern city.

Under a March 7 peace pact aimed at halting months of factional fighting in Kabul, Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was to name his cabinet by Monday in consultation with his arch-rival Rabbani.

Leaders of all the main parties would meet on March 29 in Kabul to try to narrow their differences over the composition of the

Most leaders of the nine parties that signed the Pakistani-brokered pact stayed away from the talks. The governor's house in Jalalabad, 100 kilometres east of Kabul, but sent representatives instead.

A spokesman for the radical Hekmatyar said he had agreed to go to Kabul for the talks after traditional holiday that followed the end of Ramadan.

Mr. Hekmatyar has not entered Kabul since the Mujahideen took power from the former communist government last April, entrenching his forces in the southeast of the capital from where he has bombed the city with rockets for months.

Mr. Emad said the parties had not discussed the delicate issue of who should take up the post of defence minister.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Dept. is moving the issue

WASHINGTON (R) — Two years after the end of the Gulf war, the United States released a report Friday documenting war crimes committed by Iraq against the citizens and residents of Kuwait.

Among other things, the 116-page report cited eyewitnesses who told of "Iraqis torturing a woman by making her eat her own flesh as it was cut from her body."

The U.S. army collected "evidence of Iraqi war crimes that confirms the massive scope of the offenses committed against the citizens and residents of Kuwait," the report stated.

To pursue the issue.

The report said the army and its investigators found at least a dozen torture sites in Kuwait City where body parts had been amputated, electric drills used to penetrate victims' legs, chests and arms and electric shocks applied to sensitive areas like genitals.

Some victims were killed in acid baths, the report added.

Mr. Snyder was unable to say what would become of the report. Establishment of a war crimes tribunal by the United Nations remains "under consideration," he said, but added he did not know whether it was actively being considered.

Evidence included written and videotaped accounts from rape and torture victims, photographs of murdered Kuwaitis and videotapes of torture implements and burial sites.

"Today the United States conveyed to the United Nations a U.S. government report on substantiated Iraqi war crimes," in accord with U.N. Security Council resolutions, U.S. State Department spokesman Joe Snyder told reporters.

"The report documents the outrageous behaviour of Iraqi units and individuals during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait between August 1990 and February 1991," he said.

Transmission of this report

**U.N. plans**

U.N. chemical specialists said Saturday they may have found a way to destroy weapons filled with deadly mustard gas as part of a programme to rid Iraq of chemical arsenal.

Ron Manley, a U.N. chemical weapons expert, said he would suggest to the U.N. a technique using a small explosive device to penetrate artillery shells to draw out the mustard gas.

"We still have a large number of artillery rounds containing mustard which have to be opened, emptied and destroyed by incineration," Mr. Manley

port reflects the firm resolve of the United States government to ensure that Iraq fully complies with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions," he added.

Mr. Snyder did not say, however, why it was that the United States has in the past eight months issued six reports on alleged war crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, while it took two years to publish the Iraqi report.

The New York Times reported last July that the Iraq war crimes report was stuck in bureaucracy for months, reflecting the then-Bush administration's reluctance

said.

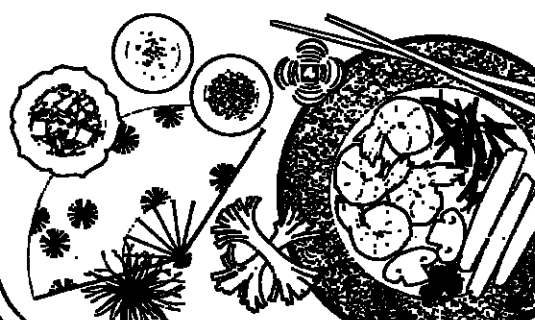
"There are approximately 13,000 of them, which we have just developed the technique to open," he added.

Mr. Manley was speaking to reporters after arriving in Bahrain with other U.N. chemical specialists from a week in Iraq.

Mr. Manley said he did not know how long it would take to destroy 12,000 to 13,000 artillery rounds filled with mustard gas, but if approval was given to the new technique he hoped it could be finished before the summer heat.

Mr. Manely said he did not know how long it would take to destroy 12,000 to 13,000 artillery rounds filled with mustard gas, but if approval was given to the new technique he hoped it could be finished before the summer heat.

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A detailed black and white illustration of a Peking Restaurant advertisement. The central focus is a large, dark, circular plate filled with a dish of food, possibly Peking duck, garnished with sliced cucumbers and other vegetables. A pair of chopsticks rests on the right side of the plate. To the left of the main plate, there are several smaller, round side dishes, each containing different types of food, including what appears to be a salad and a dish with small, round items. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border with a stylized floral motif at the top.[illegible]

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## World Youth Soccer Championship

# Last-minute goal gives Brazil victory

SYDNEY (R) — A searing left-foot shot in the last minute by striker Gian gave Brazil a 2-1 victory over African champions Ghana in the final of the World Youth Soccer Championship Saturday.

Gian's stunning goal was a fitting finale to a game of high quality in which the Brazilian favourites battled back from a half-time deficit to win a record third victory in this under-20 tournament.

Ghana, appearing in the 16-nation competition for the first time, had gone ahead in the 12th minute through a spectacular header from their youngest player, Emmanuel Duh.

The Torino 16-year-old rose above the Brazilian defence to hammer the ball past the diving Dida from a cross on the left by Augustine Ahinful. It was only the sixth goal against this Brazilian team in 23 internationals.

The Ghanians, playing with six members of the side that won the under-17 cup two years ago and with multi-million dollar midfielder Nii Lamptey dominating, deserved to be ahead at the break.

But they faced a different Brazil after the interval and the

pre-tournament favourites got the early goal they desperately needed within four minutes.

Gifted midfielder Adriano, strangely subdued in the first half, threaded a superb ball through the Ghanaian defence for yan to latch on to and push past goalkeeper Ben Owu.

The equaliser triggered a wave of Brazilian attacks and climaxed with Gian's matchwinner prompting ecstatic scenes from his teammates and wild embracing on the Brazilian bench led by coach Julio Leal.

### England beat Australia for third place

A brilliant individual goal four minutes from time by striker Julian Joachim gave England a 2-1 win over Australia and third place in the World Youth Soccer Championship Saturday.

The young Leicester City player waltzed past three defenders before rounding goalkeeper Vincent Matassa and calmly slotting the ball in the net to seal the game against the under-20 cup hosts.

A minute before the end Sheffield Wednesday striker Chris

Bart-Williams should have made it 13-1 but Matassa pulled off the save of the match at close range.

The second half came alive when Australia equalised after a scrappy first half in driving rain in which the young English professionals dominated and went ahead just before the interval through big defender David Unsworth.

Bart-Williams, who always looked dangerous going forward, crossed from the right and found Unsworth at the far post who climbed above two defenders to head home.

Cherished on by a near capacity 40,000-strong crowd, Australia looked a different team in the second half and within seven minutes had levelled through striker Ante Milicic.

England goalkeeper David Watson was beaten when what looked like a harmless volley from Milicic hit from just inside the penalty area took a deflection from defender Andy Myers and the ball dribbled into the goal.

But Australia's furious second-half comeback was nullified by the brilliance of Joachim's goal which gave England third place and its best-ever result in the biennial tournament.

## IOC and federations on course for doping agreement

ATLANTA (R) — Olympic chiefs and international sports leaders agreed Friday to march to the same tune on standardising doping bans.

The executive board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will meet the Association of Summer Olympic Sports Federations (ASOIF) council in Lausanne June 21 to nail down the agreement.

Neither IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch nor ASOIF boss Primo Nebiolo would hint at the length of the proposed standard doping ban.

But ASOIF sources said suspensions would probably be set at three months for a minor infringement, two years for a first serious offence and life for a second major infringement.

Existing suspensions for serious cases in the 26 sports on the Summer Olympic programme range from three months in cycling to four years in athletics.

Nebiolo told a news conference there was still no guarantee that all the federations would immediately fall into line after the June meeting.

Similar calls by both the IOC and ASOIF have fallen on deaf ears among some federations in the past.

Nebiolo said the ASOIF would determine the attitude of the federations ahead of the June meeting, but added:

"This does not mean we are sure that what we decide in June will be followed by all our federations."

"Those who agree will sign a (a standardisation agreement). Those who don't sign, we will try to persuade to follow us."

"I have confidence in the goodwill of all the federations, but we are not absolutely certain that we will succeed in persuading them all to standardise."

Nevertheless, the accord between the IOC and ASOIF appeared to be a positive response to a call earlier this week by the IOC Athletes' Commission for standardisation of all doping procedures.

Nebiolo said Thursday he did not plan to put the ASOIF initiative on the agenda for Friday's meeting with the IOC executive board.

But ASOIF sources said he had been concerned not to appear to be trying to impose on the supremacy of the IOC as the Olympic governing body.

Samaranch said the June meeting would also deal with the IOC's growing enthusiasm for random dope testing.

The IOC has indicated it is willing to provide funds to enable poorer federations to beef up their testing programmes.

Samaranch said the June meeting would also deal with the vexed issue of "interference" by the civil courts in sports matters.

## Graf, Sanchez Vicario in final

KEY BISCAYNE (R) — Frequent rain delays on Friday could not keep top seed Steffi Graf and second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario from setting up a showdown in Saturday's final at the \$3 million Lipton Championships.

Undeterred by the numerous frustrating interruptions, Graf demolished third-seeded Argentine Gabriela Sabatini 6-0 6-2.

"I made very few mistakes. My

forehand is the best it's been in a long time," Graf said.

Next on the receiving end of Graf's punishing forehand will be Sanchez, the women's defending champion. The speedy Spaniard made short work of 16th seed Kimiko Date of Japan with a 6-2 6-1 victory to earn a rematch with Graf after losing a final to the German two weeks ago.

The men's draw lost yet another marquee name when fifth-seeded Czech Petr Korda upset third seed Stefan Edberg in a quarter-final by taking a pair of tie-breaks in another match disrupted several times by rain.

But second seed Pete Sampras avoided joining the likes of Jim Courier, Andre Agassi and Edberg on the sidelines by pounding out a 6-3 7-6 (9-7) victory over 10th-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek after a lengthy rain delay.

"It was a tough day for everybody, clearing for 20 minutes, raining for five minutes. It's the most bizarre day I've ever been associated with," Sampras said.

The former U.S. Open champion trailed 4-5 in the tie-break when the rain started once again. When play resumed, Sampras saved a set point and took the match with help from a pair of double faults by Krajicek.

Sampras will play Korda in one semifinal, while the other semifinal pits talented young South African Marcos Ondruska against 14th seed Malivi Washington.

The 48th-ranked Ondruska, who earlier in the tournament upset defending champion Michael Chang and Michael Stich, beat Australian Mark Woodforde 6-4 6-2.

Woodforde reached the quar-



Pete Sampras

ters Thursday by upsetting Courier, who was forced to play two matches in one day because days of rain had played havoc with the tournament schedule.

Washington advanced to the final four by beating fellow American Patrick McEnroe 6-1 7-6 late Friday night.

The miserable weather in usually sunny South Florida and rain-related court problems have left frustrated tournament officials contemplating moving the event indoors.

"Talk about indescribable, talk about a nightmare," said tournament chairman Butch Buchholz. "If you wrote the worst possible script this would be it, but no one would believe it. We're looking at every conceivable option including playing Monday and going indoors to the Miami arena," he said.

Graf's convincing one hour and eight minute win took nearly six hours to complete, while Korda's two hour, 17 minute decision took more than seven and a half hours.

"It's tough to play on a day like this," said Edberg. "Anybody could have won today because it's so tough coming on and off."

## Mansell in pole spot for Indy GP debut

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia (R) — Britain's motor racing champion Nigel Mansell starts his first IndyCar Grand Prix Sunday in his favourite spot — at the front of the grid.

Mansell set a new track record in Friday's qualifying session on the street circuit of the Surfers Paradise tourist resort, becoming the sixth driver in IndyCar history to debut in pole position.

"I am really happy to be on pole position," Mansell said after the second qualifying round Saturday. He retained his record breaking time of one minute

38.555 seconds although nearest rival Emerson Fittipaldi narrowed the gap in the final session.

But Mansell, who dominated the 1992 Formula One season with 14 poles and nine wins, was cautious about how he will perform Sunday.

"Obviously it will depend on reliability and how hard everybody behind pushes. You can rest assured that all 26 drivers will



Nigel Mansell poses with British fans at the Australian IndyCar Grand Prix (AFP photo)

want to win."

Known as "our Nige" to his fans in Britain and Il Leone to Italian motor-racing devotees, Mansell's aggressive driving is delighting crowds here at Surfers Paradise, host of the only IndyCar race outside the United States and Canada.

"Nuke 'em Nige!" trumpets one banner, while Union Jacks are dotted about the stands along the 2.795 mile (4.5 km) circuit.

## GOVERN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMARA HIRSCH  
© Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### A KNAVISH TRICK

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K J 9 7 5  
♥ A 10 8  
♦ 10 7 4  
♣ A J

**WEST**  
♠ 8 3  
♥ J 9 7 2  
♦ Q J 9 6  
♣ 8 8 6 3

**EAST**  
♠ 6 5  
♥ Q 5 4  
♦ Q 8 3 2  
♣ 10 7 5 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q 10 4 2  
♥ K 8 3  
♦ A K 5  
♣ A Q

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
1 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠  
Study all the 52 cards of this deal. Would you rather play or defend six spades?

The bidding was straight from a Goren textbook and right on target. With a balanced hand and probably an unnecessary queen of spades, South decided to be content to strive for 12 tricks when North jump raised spades to show 13-15 points and a good fit. The mirror distribution, however, made the

slam anything but laydown. West led the queen of diamonds, and South played the hand rather well. After winning the king of diamonds, declarer drew trumps, cashed the ace and king of clubs and ace of diamonds, then exited with a diamond.

In with the jack of diamonds, West had either to break hearts or else yield a ruff and stuff. Declarer covered the deuce of hearts with the right and captured East's queen with the king. When a heart to the ten won, the slam rolled home.

Was anything wrong with the result? If so, what?

We would venture to say that the vast majority of players would have defended exactly as West did. And they would all have been wrong!

Suppose that, instead of exiting with a low heart, West had returned the jack. Whether declarer wins in dummy or the closed hand, the finesse position does not exist, so declarer will eventually have to concede a heart. The beauty of the play is that it costs nothing. On any line of the cards where the defenders have a heart trick coming, they'll get it. And it gains if the cards are distributed as in the diagram.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 21, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A wonderful day for you to arrange your surroundings of all types so that in the days ahead you will have a more operative plan that will serve all your interests for a considerable length of time.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Don't be sarcastic or abrupt with any of your household in the morning and later you find they respond to your wishes in a very satisfactory manner.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) A communication can make you furious early but think twice and then again before responding and you find it can be made advantageous to you.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) An unexpected expense early can throw you for a loss but don't act hastily and you will find you see ways to improve present financial position.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You really feel someone has played a dirty trick on you but rise above it and as the day passes everything will develop in your own favour.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Don't be annoyed because something occurs to disturb your equilibrium early for later you find events transpire giving you the chance to gain a desired aim.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) An obstacle to gaining a goal

should only wet your appetite to turn such a condition so it operates in your behalf which will not be hard.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) An outside matter can upset you very much early but don't let that keep you from getting out in public and attending to civic, credit conditions.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A new plan you have counted on seems a long way off early but it is closer than you think, all you have to do is go after it with steadfastness.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You see why your mate is taking a perverse stand but let it sink in that persons mind but giving a few hours and all will be well.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A worldly condition has you biting your nails but look deeper into the situation and you will find favourable factors not visible on the surface.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Consider well the various reasons why work seems tiresome early and you get a fresh new stance and approach that can bring pleasure from it.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You think a pleasure you have anticipated is gone early but actually it is merely dormant until beneficial conditions come about so its more enjoyable.

## Sydney accused of trying to buy Olympics

ATLANTA (R) — The beleaguered Berlin Olympic bid committee Friday accused front-runner Sydney of trying to buy the 2000 games.

Sydney is believed to have a slight edge over Beijing in the race to obtain the games.

The other four candidates — Berlin, Brasilia, Istanbul and Manchester — are given little chance of winning when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) makes its choice in Monte Carlo September 23.

Many athletes would have to travel long distances to a Sydney Games, but the city has sought to offset this handicap by offering to pay their air fares.

During a series of Olympic meetings in Atlanta this week, Sydney tabled an extra offer to pay for the shipment of Olympic horses, boats and other technical equipment to Australia.

This drew criticism from Berlin, whose won bid has been beset by disasters since it was launched two years ago.

"That kind of assistance can only be given in co-operation with the IOC, otherwise it's buying the games," Dieter Krickow, sports director of the Berlin bid, told reporters.

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dallas posts first road win of season

PHILADELPHIA (R) — The lowly Dallas Mavericks aided their desperate attempt to keep from becoming the worst team in National Basketball Association history by winning their first road game of the season on Friday. The Mavericks, who snapped a 19-game losing streak on Wednesday, posted consecutive wins for the first time this season with an 89-87 triumph over the Philadelphia 76ers. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Phoenix Suns — the NBA's best team this year — crushed the Detroit Pistons 127-97 to raise their record to 48-14 with their 28th victory at home.

### Kasparov, Short set to stage championship

LONDON (R) — Bids to host a new World Chess Championship closed Friday amid signs that a rift between top players Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short and the International Chess Federation (FIDE) appeared beyond repair. "Kasparov and Short are committed to announcing new bids for their version of the title at a press conference in London Monday," a source close to the negotiations said. "The division between the players and FIDE seems set to result in rival titles as in boxing," the sources added. Short, 27, the first Briton to challenge for the world title, and the Azeri-born world champion Kasparov, 29, split with FIDE in February saying the chess body had failed to consider their wishes when it awarded the match to Short's home city of Manchester.

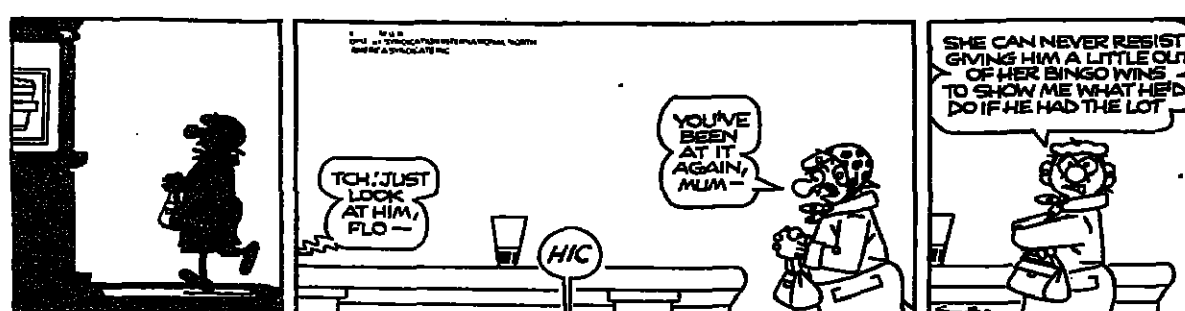
### 'Reynolds offered sponsorship if he drops \$27 case'

ATLANTA (AP) — Butch Reynolds has been offered sponsorship deals by two companies as an incentive to drop his claim of \$27.3 million against track and field's world governing body, a source close to the case said Friday. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one of the offers came from a major sports shoe company. The other company wasn't disclosed, but both are believed to be sponsors of the International Amateur Athletic Federation. The IAAF filed a motion Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Columbus, Ohio, challenging the ruling that Reynolds was entitled to \$27.3 million in compensation for his disputed doping suspension.

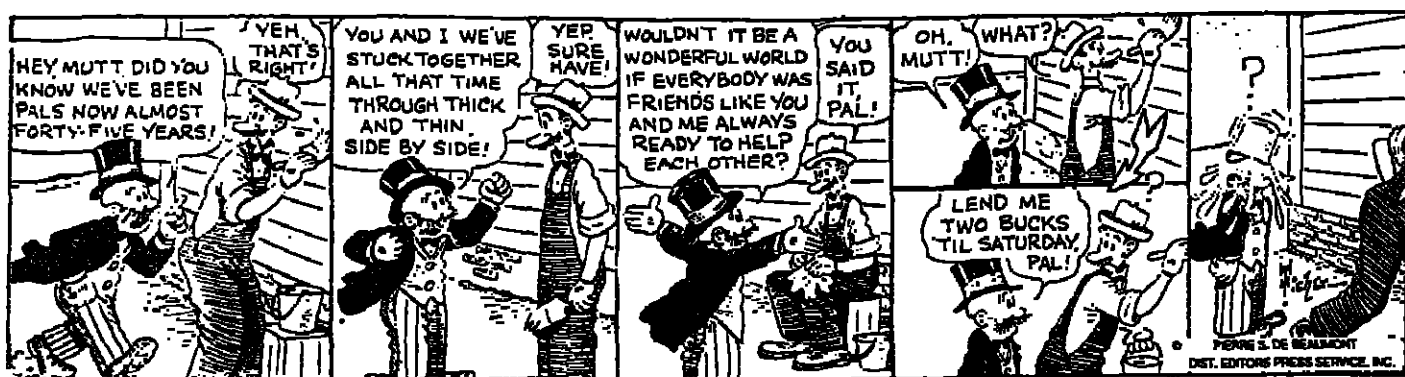
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"I know you don't care for flowers, Stanley, so I brought you a bouquet of junk food!"

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DANSY

ALAF

RATHEH

CHEWEN



THE EARLIEST MAN-MADE REVOLVERS.

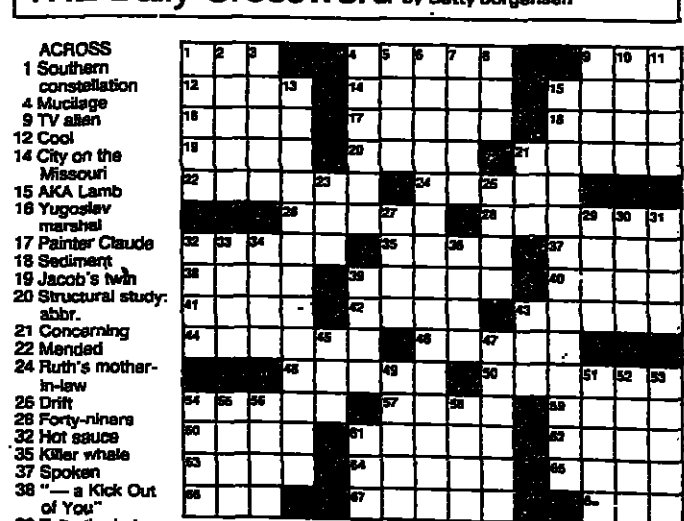
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: SIXTY WRATH KIMONO GRATIS  
Answer: Advertising in its highest form—SKYWRITING

## THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

RAMS SOLD DRESS  
ALICE ANNA ABATE  
POLICE DEPT. ABATE  
VENUE POINTED  
RASH BURN  
POLA MACIE BRAS  
EVA ANNA GROPE  
PILLOWCASES  
PERAL GRAB BUS  
YERBA MATE PINE  
RASH BURN  
APPOINT ABLES  
MEOWS WESTPOINT  
EASIN IDEA USHA  
STYRE TOWN SPAR

52 One of a sailing  
53 Brew  
54 Salt powder  
55 New thought

56 Spring season  
58 Captain Hook's  
aide  
61 Welch  
appendage







## Georgian forces, Abkhazian separatists fight near Sukhumi

SUKHUMI, Georgia (R) — Fighting raged into the early hours of Saturday between Georgian forces and Abkhazian separatists in a war that has set Georgia and Russia at each other's throats.

The regional capital of Sukhumi reverberated throughout the night to the sound of firing. Georgian troops used Grad missiles to launch attacks on rebel forces based just across the Gumista River, about six kilometres north of town.

Local residents, speaking from houses damaged in bombing raids earlier this week, blamed Russia for supporting the rebel Abkhaz troops.

"Russia has its interests in getting hold of part of the Black Sea now," said 18-year-old Irakli Ratiani, whose one-storey home has sagging walls and ceilings after a bomb struck his residential district early Wednesday.

"Russia is simply following its own interests. It could not care

less who controls the area, Georgians or Abkhazians."

Abkhazians form a small minority in the breakaway region, sandwiched between Russia and Georgia on the Black Sea coast.

Describing the latest fighting, a Georgian military spokesman said government troops on the Gumista frontline had destroyed an Abkhazian armoured personnel carrier.

In another incident they shelled an Abkhazian vessel "manoeuvring suspiciously" offshore, immobilising it.

Georgia accuses Russia of arming and supporting the rebels. Moscow denies the charge and says its forces are neutral in the conflict between the Abkhazians and Georgians.

The fighting has left Sukhumi, the Georgian-controlled capital of Abkhazia, virtually without water and electricity supplies. There are few telephone links with Moscow.

Georgian military officials say up to 500 soldiers and civilians were killed this week, mostly on the rebel side. Another bid to storm the city cannot be ruled out.

"We are ready, of course, because there could be another offensive, though I personally feel they lost too many men for another assault soon," said Soso Margishvili, chief of Sukhumi's Military Press Centre.

The rebels came within two kilometres of the port city last Tuesday before being pushed back.

The failed offensive left scores of homes in this seaside resort in rubble. Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said Friday his country's forces had shot down a Russian military plane, killing the pilot.

"It is time to stop before it is too late," local journalists quoted him as saying. "The mistakes of Afghanistan and Czechoslovakia

must not be repeated," he said, referring to Soviet invasions of the two states.

Georgia says hundreds of homes in Sukhumi have been destroyed in the conflict, but not all victims blame Russia.

One Russian woman, Tamara Pivovarova, whose house was gutted last Wednesday by a bomb that nearly killed her, her husband and his mother, blamed Mr. Shevardnadze for not stopping the conflict.

"The leadership is guilty, both sides are guilty. Our young people are being killed, blood is flowing. We have been without water, gas and bread for months," she said, standing in her single-storey house, the front of which was blown away by the bomb.

"Look at this," she said, gesturing to her shattered fridge and cooker. "This is what we are reduced to after 40 years of married life. We have nothing and nobody to turn to."

## Mandela: Political ambition would be wrong

WASHINGTON (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela says in a television interview to be broadcast later this month that he has no political ambitions in expected elections in South Africa.

"It would be wrong for me to have any personal ambition (in politics)," Mr. Mandela told David Frost in an interview to be broadcast on March 26 by the U.S. Public Broadcasting Service.

Mr. Mandela was responding to Mr. Frost's question on whether he would seek South Africa's presidency in elections expected later this year or early next.

"I was brought up in the tradition of teamwork and in these matters it is the team, not the individual that is crucial," Mr. Mandela said. "There are many capable comrades in the ANC and I would be honoured to serve under them."

He added, "If the people want me to wear a uniform and be a watchman... I will be happy to do that."

Mr. Mandela said he was encouraged by the Clinton administration's assurances of help in South Africa's transition to democracy after 300 years of white minority rule, but said the United States was unlikely to play a large role in the process.

"I don't think I should exaggerate the role which the United States of America could play because they have got their own problems. South Africa will not be a priority," he said.

South African President F.W. de Klerk, who began dismantling apartheid three years, told Mr. Frost he would serve under Mr. Mandela if that was what the South African people chose.

The head of the ANC's main political rival, chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, told Mr. Frost he had the same objectives as Mr. Mandela but favoured different methods.

However, Mr. Buthelezi denied even considering secession



Nelson Mandela

for predominantly black areas.

Negotiators are due to start a two-day meeting in Johannesburg on April 1 in a fresh bid to thrust out terms for transition to democracy.

Since the dismantling of apartheid began, some 7,700 people have died in township warfare, much of it between supporters of the ANC and Inkatha.

Meanwhile U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha Friday and offered U.S. help in negotiations on a transition to democracy and majority rule due to resume next month.

"I'm very pleased to note that negotiations are going to be resumed in early April for the transitional government," Mr. Christopher said, welcoming Mr. Botha to the State Department.

"Negotiations are the only way to go in that circumstance. The United States wants to assist you in any appropriate way in those negotiations," he said.

Mr. Botha described his meeting with Mr. Christopher as "by and large a most useful, constructive and encouraging visit."

Mr. Botha, a former South African ambassador to the United Nations and the world's longest-serving foreign minister, noted that he had met several of

Mr. Christopher's predecessors in the past 15 years, including Henry Kissinger, Cyrus Vance and George Shultz.

"It's a very precious moment," he said. "I have come here for the first time to discuss with you affairs without the burden of apartheid."

Reporters who covered some of those earlier visits recalled vividly Mr. Botha vigorously depending apartheid to the news media after strained sessions with U.S. officials.

But in a news conference Thursday, Mr. Botha was all contrition.

"Apartheid was a mistake," Mr. Botha said of the system through which the white minority for decades deprived black South Africans of basic rights and condemned them to economic impoverishment.

"It was based on racial prejudice, it was morally indefensible," he declared.

His mission this time is to try and bring Africa in general and South Africa in particular back to the attention of U.S. policymakers.

He warned Thursday that Africa was becoming marginalised as the world's attention turned to the problems of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

## Clinton to make 1st appointment to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (R) — Conservative U.S. Supreme Court Justice Byron White announced his retirement Friday, giving Democratic President Bill Clinton his chance to start remoulding the court whose decisions can have far-reaching effects on the lives of Americans.

Mr. Clinton promised during the 1992 election campaign to make sure his Supreme Court appointees believed in a woman's right to have an abortion, which Justice White opposed.

Justice White, 75, the Supreme Court's most senior member, was appointed in 1962 as a moderate

liberal but moved to the right and voter with conservatives on most issues.

Mr. Clinton, who took office in January, said Friday he meant to find "a truly outstanding American" to replace Justice White by the time the court opens its autumn term in October.

He told reporters during a visit to Atlanta he wants someone with good judgment, wide experience and "a big heart."

Conservatives' influence increased greatly during the presidencies of Republicans Ronald Reagan and George Bush — who

between them appointed five of the nine justices.

Harry Blackmun, 84, the most liberal member of the court, is expected to retire soon, a move that would give Mr. Clinton at least two high court appointments during his term.

In addition to Justices White and Blackmun, the court includes Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, Sandra Day O'Connor, David Souter, John Paul Stevens and Clarence Thomas.

Justice White's rightward shift

seemed most pronounced in the area of civil rights. He joined the conservatives in opposing "affirmative action" programmes to help minorities and women.

In 1986, he stirred controversy by writing the court's opinion that constitutional protections of privacy do not extend to homosexual conduct — a major setback to the "gay rights" movement.

Justice White consistently opposed restrictions on the police, and dissented from rulings that outlawed voluntary prayer for children in public schools.

## Amato is determined to steer Italy to reform

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato has accused political enemies of spreading rumours he would resign to weaken him and said he wants to stay on to oversee radical electoral reform in the scandal-hit country.

"I have been subjected to real attacks but these have been conducted in the most underhand manner, in line with the dictates of the old political ways," Mr. Amato said in an interview published in the daily La Stampa Saturday.

He blamed an old guard which saw its power slipping away as a corruption scandal sweeps through the political and business class and hastens institutional reform in Italy.

"They tried to portray me as a lemon which had been squeezed dry," the prime minister added.

Both Mr. Amato and the office of President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro Friday denied the prime minister had tried to resign after suffering

a humiliating parliamentary defeat this week.

Mr. Scalfaro has meanwhile cancelled a state visit to Denmark and Finland which had been scheduled for later this month.

The unusual step underlined the sense of alarm in a country reeling from the scandal centred on the systematic payment of kickbacks by businessmen to politicians in return for public works contracts.

Mr. Scalfaro's chief spokesman said Saturday the president wanted to remain in Italy during the campaign for a referendum on April 18 which could spell the beginning of the end for Italy's much derided system of proportional representation.

Voters must decide on 10 reforms — the most important being whether to introduce a simple majority system for nearly all the seats in the Senate (Upper House).

A "yes" vote would pave the way for wholesale electoral

changes for the larger Chamber of Deputies (Lower House) and could change the face of Italian politics.

Mr. Amato, whose nine-month old administration struggles on with a wafer-thin parliamentary majority, told La Stampa he intended to stick to his post after the referendum.

He evoked the possibility of broadening his coalition to steer the country through a transitional period ahead of fresh general elections under a new system.

"After the reform there won't be the old parties who are ready to launch an electoral campaign as if nothing had happened," Mr. Amato said.

"We will reach elections with new rules and new political forces. These will need time to organise themselves," he added.

The prime minister urged the former Communists of the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) and the small Republican Party to state their terms for

joining his government.

The prime minister told a news conference in Florence Saturday he backed a "yes" vote in the referendum.

"I think in Italy it is useful to go beyond proportional representation because there is the possibility to group social, civil and political forces around poles which are vital for the democratic system," Mr. Amato said.

The voting system is blamed for Italy's post-war history of revolving door governments — Mr. Amato heads the 51st administration since World War II.

A poll Saturday forecast 54 per cent of Italians would vote for electoral reform for the Senate on April 18 but 35 per cent remain undecided.

The poll, carried out by the Doxa Institute for Il Messaggero newspaper, showed only two in 10 of those questioned understood exactly what they were being asked to vote on.

## German opposition lower in poll

BONN (R) — Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) have plummeted in popularity polls, but this still does not assure Chancellor Helmut Kohl of reelection next year, an opinion poll said Friday.

The popularity of the SPD, stunned by an eight percentage point drop in local elections in Hesse state early in March, fell to 35 per cent this month from 43 per cent in February, a ZDF Television poll said.

Eighty per cent felt the SPD could not do any better in power than Mr. Kohl's government and only 51 per cent felt SPD leader Bjoern Engholm was the right man to stand against Mr. Kohl in general elections late next year.

But Mr. Kohl fared little better, ranking last in a list of Germany's 10 most popular politicians behind retired Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (first place), Mr. Engholm (fourth place) and four close allies.

Mr. Kohl even ranked behind ninth-placed Oscar Lafontaine, the ambitious former SPD leader he trounced in the 1990 election.

The survey said Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats and the SPD would each get 36 per cent of the vote in an election now. The Greens would get 10 per cent, the liberal FDP eight per cent, the far-right Republicans six per cent and other parties four per cent.

"The only government would be a coalition of the SPD, FDP and Greens or a grand coalition (of Christian Democrats and Social Democrats)," ZDF said.

The survey said a widening political scandal which has badly tarnished Mr. Engholm's "Mr. Clean" image was the main reason for his fall in popularity.

It listed unemployment and uncontrolled immigration as the main issues worrying Germans.

It said 57 per cent wanted to drop compulsory military service in favour of a volunteer army, a change Mr. Kohl opposes. It showed no majority support for his hopes of changing laws barring German troops from joining international military missions.

In a separate development, racists Friday firebombed a refugee camp in the north German town of Moelln, scene of last November's arson killing of three Turks, prosecutors said.

WINDHOEK (R) — A Namibian court let a tribeswoman walk free after finding her guilty of murdering her premature baby. The 17-year-old woman from the San tribe of hunter-gatherers regarded as the original modern-day inhabitants of southern Africa was convicted. The trial was reported in Namibian newspapers Friday. The court heard that she gave birth last July in a minibus and was taken to a hospital where no one spoke her language. Her husband was not allowed to stay with her. Nurses testified that she took the two-day-old child from an incubator and deliberately dropped it on the floor. The woman said in a statement the fall was an accident. Judge Harold Levy said there were extenuating circumstances. "An unsophisticated bushman found herself out of bushmanland for the first time," he said. "The accused was left among strange people who could not understand her. She was left with no support and was extremely distraught." The judge sentenced her to be detained until the court ended the day's session.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Filipino vice-president escapes ambush

MANILA (R) — Gunmen ambushed crime-busting Philippine Vice-President Joseph Estrada with grenade-launchers Saturday and injured two police officers, police said. Mr. Estrada, a former movie actor who now heads a presidential anti-crime panel battling a wave of kidnappings, said he was not hurt and vowed after the attack to launch a crackdown on all criminal gangs in the Philippines. "I'm OK. It's time to clean up our country of criminal gangs," Mr. Estrada, who played tough guy roles in the movies, said in an interview with radio station DZXL after the attack outside Santo Tomas some 65 kilometres south of Manila. Police said a renegade group of former Communist guerrillas may have been behind the ambush, but no group has so far claimed responsibility.

### Slovak foreign minister fired

BRATISLAVA (R) — Slovak Foreign Minister Milan Knažko was fired Friday after losing a protracted and public power struggle with Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, the second minister to go in as many days. Diplomats said Knažko's departure marked a decisive political victory for Meciar, 50, a former boxer and ex-Communist often accused of intolerance and authoritarianism. Mr. Knažko had refused repeated requests from Mr. Meciar to resign, saying the Slovak constitution did not allow the premier to sack a cabinet minister. In a final broadside before stepping down, he accused Mr. Meciar, without mentioning him by name, of resorting to authoritarian methods to govern Slovakia.

### Romanian government survives vote

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's minority government survived a showdown vote on its economic strategy Friday, the first parliamentary no-confidence motion in seven decades. Senate leader Oliviu Gherman announced a 260-192 result in the government's favour after a debate and secret ballot in which deputies cast black and white marbles into urns. "The censure motion lodged by the opposition has fallen short of the 243 votes required under the constitution," said Mr. Gherman, leader of President Ion Iliescu's ruling Democratic National Salvation Front (DNSF) party. Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu won the duel after the centrist opposition branded the four-year economic reform plan which he presented this month as too vague and attacked him for delaying privatisation. It was the first such debate in Romanian parliamentary history since 1922.

### 5 die in blast at Bulgarian plant

NIKOLOVO, Bulgaria (R) — A huge blast at a Bulgarian military explosives plant killed five people and injured more than 60, police said. The explosion at the Dunarit plant in Nikolovo, 300 kilometres northeast of Sofia, happened as workers were unloading two lorries carrying containers filled with a combustible

material used to make weapons fuses. Both trucks exploded near a warehouse where 60 tonnes of the same material detonated in a chain reaction, devastating the surrounding area. Nearby buildings and trees were destroyed. "There is huge crater of 2,000 square metres at the site of the explosion," a Nikolovo police officer said. Of the 60 injured workers, 10 were in a serious condition, half of them fighting for their lives, officials at hospitals in the nearby town of Rousse said.

### Escobar's military chief killed

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian police shot dead cocaine king Pablo Escobar's second-in-command Friday, shortly after one of Mr. Escobar's lawyers said the Medellin cartel chief was preparing to surrender peacefully. Police acting on a tipoff stormed an office building in central Medellin and killed Mario Castano Molina, alias El Chopo, allegedly after he resisted arrest. "This is the way in which the Colombian National Police is showing Colombians the effort, the will, and the decision to finish off drug terrorism," National Police Chief General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla told RCN Radio. Colombian authorities had offered a reward of 100 million pesos (\$133,000) for information leading to the arrest of Mr. Castano, the cartel's military chief, who was accused of masterminding a campaign of bombings and killings in Bogota and Medellin during the past five months. Police say Mr. Escobar ordered the attacks to pressure the government into negotiating favourable terms for a surrender.

### Renewal plan launched for Athens

ATHENS (R) — Greece's government launched a multi-million-dollar urban renewal plan Friday to make the capital's centre an "archaeological park" with walkways linking monuments which were the glory of ancient Athens. "We want Athens, the birthplace of Western democracy, to be a fitting historical capital for Greece and for Europe," Culture Minister Dora Bakoyanni told a news conference. The conservative government will pump \$550 million into the vast public works project over five years, giving a long overdue facelift to the European Community's most polluted and rundown capital. Ms. Bakoyanni said her programme had the full backing of the government. Work would start immediately to link ancient sites with sprawling pedestrian walkways and new parks. She said the aim of the renewal programme, the biggest ever in Athens, was to turn the city of Plato, Socrates and Pericles into an expanded "archaeological park" by the end of 1998.

### Explosion kills 3 in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (R) — An explosion killed three people and injured 14 as workers were unloading a truck in the southwestern province of Baluchistan Saturday, police said. "Labourers were unloading goods from the truck... when some explosive material went off," a police officer said. Two men were killed instantly and a third died in hospital. Police were investigating the cause of the blast.

## FBI searches apartment of man wanted for questioning in bombing

WOODBURGE, N.J. (AP) — The probe into the World Trade Centre bombing moved to the apartment of a man wanted for questioning, but investigators said they failed to find him.

A woman who works in the rental office of the apartment complex said the man, Mahmud Abouhalima, lived with his wife — who is apparently German — and four children in the apartment.

"I don't know when he was last there," the FBI said Friday as agents searched the apartment.

The woman, who did not want her name used for fear of retribution, said Mr. Abouhalima's brother, Mohammad, lived in the apartment upstairs with his wife and two children. She said neither man had paid his rent this month and she had not seen either recently.

FBI agents led a man away shortly after noon from the apartment but would not immediately identify him. The man matched a description given by neighbours of one of the male occupants inside the split-level house in the 200 unit apartment complex.

A law enforcement source said the man was Abouhalima's brother, Mohammad, but FBI spokesman Jim Lamb would not comment.

No arrests were made, Mr. Lamb said.

Mr. Lamb said no explosives were found inside but would not

detail what was taken out of the apartment. FBI agents, some wearing rubber gloves, took boxes from the apartment throughout the day.

The Trade Centre, in the heart of New York's financial district, was crippled on Feb. 26 by a bomb which killed six people and wounded over 1,000. Two suspects, Mohammad Salameh and Nidal Ayyad, have been arrested.

The woman in the rental office said she recognised Mahmud Abouhalima's face when she saw his picture on television and in the newspapers.

Mr. Abouhalima told her when he signed the rental agreement

that he met his wife, who wore a veil and full length dress, while he was studying in Germany, she said. She did not know when he studied.

Mr. Abouhalima had told him they had only one child, but she said the manager did not kick him out once it was discovered they had four.

Life continued to return to normal at the World Trade Centre, where several businesses went back to their offices Friday. The bombing investigation continued as well, with the focus remaining on tons of rubble beneath the towers.

## COLUMN

### Stolen Rubens found hidden behind furniture

LONDON (R) — A painting by Rubens stolen in Ireland's biggest art theft has been found hidden behind furniture in a house near London, police said. The painting of a Dominican monk is valued at £4 million (\$5.95 million). It was taken in 1986 from the County Wicklow home of Sir Alfred Beit when 17 old masters worth an estimated £30 million (\$44.60 million) were stolen. It was recovered Thursday after police raided a house at Borehamwood in Hertfordshire.

### Prince Charles awarded ecological medal

BONN (R) — Britain's Prince Charles has received a prize sponsored by an international group called "Artists for Ecology" and awarded in recognition of his interest in preserving the environment. The heir to the British throne was presented with the Ecological Eagle Award — a bronze eagle — by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. "Your royal majesty, you have in your important position set a convincing personal example through your commitment," Mr. Kinkel said during a ceremony in Bonn's hilltop Petersberg Hotel. "We congratulate you, we share your joy in receiving this prize." The annual award is granted to a personality who has helped improve the environment. Mr. Kinkel praised the prince for his work at his Highgrove country home, where he uses organic farming methods.

### Hillary Clinton's father suffers stroke

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — The father of U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is in stable condition at a Little Rock hospital after suffering an apparent stroke, a hospital spokeswoman said. The first lady flew to Arkansas Friday night to be with her father, Hugh Rodham, 81. "We suspect Mr. Rodham has indeed suffered a stroke, but he is in stable condition," said Carolyn Lindsey, the hospital's public affairs officer. Ms. Lindsey said she believed Mr. Rodham became ill at his Little Rock home. A native of Chicago, Mr. Rodham and his wife moved to Arkansas several years ago to be nearer his daughter and son-in-law, then-Governor Bill Clinton.

### Mother gets wrist-slap for murdering baby

WINDHOEK (R) — A Namibian court let a tribeswoman walk free after finding her guilty of murdering her premature baby. The 17-year-old woman from the San tribe of hunter-gatherers regarded as the original modern-day inhabitants of southern Africa was convicted. The trial was reported in Namibian newspapers Friday. The court heard that she gave birth last July in a minibus and was taken to a hospital where no one spoke her language. Her husband was not allowed to stay with her. Nurses testified that she took the two-day-old child from an incubator and deliberately dropped it on the floor. The woman said in a statement the fall was an accident. Judge Harold Levy said there were extenuating circumstances. "An unsophisticated bushman found herself out of bushmanland for the first time," he said. "The accused was left among strange people who could not understand her. She was left with no support and was extremely distraught." The judge sentenced her to be detained until the court ended the day's session.

### Judge gags cockerel

NEWTON ABBOT, England (R) — A noisy cockerel whose nocturnal crowing kept a family awake in an English village was gagged by a British court. Government officials found the noise reached official nuisance levels and company Director John Ritchings applied for a court ban on the outpouring of the cockerel. Corky, a judge in Newton Abbot, southwest England, granted an injunction forbidding Corky's owner from allowing the bird to crow between midnight and 7:00 a.m., so as to cause a noise nuisance. The bird's owner Margery Johns, who fought the application arguing the crowing was a normal country noise, said she was "very disappointed." Legal costs estimated at £5,000 (\$7,433) were awarded against Johns but damages, which the judge proposed at £250 (\$370), were waived by the plaintiff.